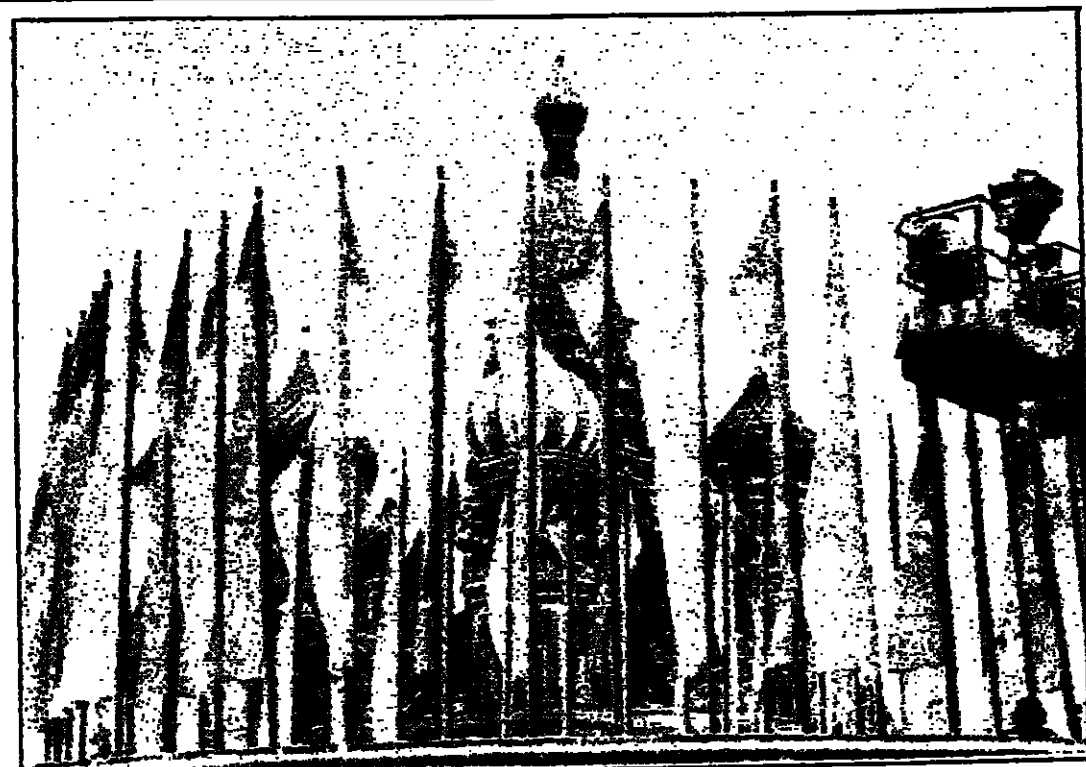


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Soviet New Year
Flags marking the Soviet New Year flutter in front of St. Basil's cathedral on the Red Square in Moscow. (Reuters wirephoto)



Elena Ceausescu's body lying after execution. (Reuters wirephoto)

No chance of counter-coup

Sweeping reforms

BUCHAREST, Dec 29. (Agencies): The provisional government today announced sweeping reforms abolishing the framework of more than 40 years of totalitarian communism and committing the country to democratic rule, a free press and private enterprise.

New Foreign Minister Corneliu Bogdan said the 145-member council of the ruling National Salvation Front would soon draft a new constitution and would hold free elections in April — the first in Romania since World War II.

Attacking the symbols of communism as well as the substance, the council declared the country would now be known simply as "Romania," dropping the words "socialist republic." The Soviet red star and other communist symbols would be stripped from the national flag, the council said in a statement carried by the national news agency Agerpres.

The hated symbols were physically removed from hundreds of Romanian flags amid the passion of last week's popular revolt against hard-line communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu. Romania's iron-fisted ruler for a quarter-century, Ceausescu was driven out of office by pro-democracy forces a week ago before being hunted down and executed Monday, along with his wife and second-in-command, Elena.

As the reforms were announced, soldiers and civilian militia remained on guard against attacks by renegade secret police.



A soldier plays his guitar while on guard duty in central Bucharest as the city is returning to normal. (Reuters wirephoto)

who remain loyal to Ceausescu. The loyalists have gone underground, surfacing sporadically for rooftop sniper attacks.

Romania's new prime minister said yesterday that Ceausescu was executed quickly to thwart a rescue attempt planned by paratroopers of his security police.

"We would have liked to have a public trial but circumstances made it necessary to hold a military tribunal," Petre Roman told Spanish state television.

The army's higher military council proclaimed itself in full control of the entire country today, but conceded small pockets of "terrorists" were still causing

problems in some areas. In statements carried by Agerpres, the army issued another "last call" for members of the dreaded secret police to lay down their weapons. Earlier in the week the government warned supporters of the old regime to surrender by Thursday of face summary execution.

Except for the heavy army presence and frequent security checks, life was almost normal in Bucharest. Journalists who have visited Romania many times in the past said people seemed happier and were smiling more.

Instead of diving for cover, Romanians smiled and flashed a (Continued on Page 6)

Enrile charged with rebellion

MANILA, Dec 29. (Agencies): Opposition leader Senator Juan Ponce Enrile was charged with rebellion yesterday for his involvement in this month's coup attempt after witnesses allegedly saw him meeting with renegade army Col Gregorio Honasan during the uprising. The government also filed rebellion charges against five others.

Honasan, 41, leader of a bloody failed uprising in 1987, allegedly led the Dec 1-7 rebellion that left 119 people dead and nearly toppled President Corason Aquino.

Honasan served as Enrile's chief security officer before Aquino fired Enrile as defense minister in November 1986. Nine months earlier, Enrile assisted in the February 1986 popular revolt that forced president Ferdinand Marcos into exile after 20 years in power.

Enrile, 65, a Harvard-educated lawyer, denied the charges, which carry a penalty ranging from six months to 12 years in prison upon conviction.

"I have not committed a crime," he said. "I am willing to face (the charges) frontally."

The investigation that led to the filing of charges named three waiters employed at a hotel that provided catering service to Enrile in his swank Dasmariñas village home Dec 1. The waiters testified they saw Enrile conferring with several mutineers, including Honasan.

Enrile is the third civilian to face charges in the insurrection, the sixth against Aquino's nearly four-year-old government. Rebellion charges also were filed Wednesday against retired generals Felix Brawner, a military consultant in the Senate and Jaime Echeverria.

Enrile was charged on a day of panic-selling on the Philippines' major stock exchange after a senior general warned there could be a new coup attempt against Aquino next month.

Share prices on the Manila stock exchange opened 15.45 points lower. After government ins-

tutions bought up shares to brake the decline, the composite index closed at 1,104.50, or 10.72 points below Wednesday's finish.

Dealers blamed the decline on a statement Wednesday by Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, chief of the Philippine Constabulary, that a new coup may be launched after Jan 17.

Montano warned the new attempt may be launched by renegade leaders of this month's coup attempt.

"Our intelligence data tell us that the next possible timetable for a coup could be between Jan 17 and 30 next year," Montano told reporters.

Military spokesman Brigadier General Oscar Florendo said in an interview about 300 rebel soldiers were trying to regroup for another attack.

But he said the rebels could not stage another coup because they no longer had armour and air power.

See Page 4



Enrile

Foreign wives may not get visas

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is studying a proposal to ban issuing visas for foreign wives, according to a report published in a local Arabic daily.

The report said the ministry is studying the social problems of marriages between Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis.

The report said a panel of experts is examining the social implications of inter-cultural marriages and will soon submit recommendations. They will particularly focus on inter-cultural marriages between disabled Kuwaitis and foreigners.

One of the recommendations includes the appointment of a social worker to examine any intended marriage between handicapped person and a foreigner. He will be asked to certify whether or not that person is capable of supporting his wife financially and physically, and can provide housing.

Marriages between elderly Kuwaiti men and young foreign women are also being examined. Such marriages have known to create certain social problems in Kuwait, the report said.

The first meeting, chaired by the minister of social affairs, to discuss the issue was held last week.

The new rules regarding marriages between Kuwaitis and foreigners will be implemented after being approved by a relevant committee, it said. It noted that the new rules do not conflict with domestic or Islamic laws.

Respect laws, diwanis told

'Invitations to discuss certain topics'

KUWAIT, Dec 29: The Interior Ministry has called upon citizens to preserve the true spirit of diwanis.

An official source at the ministry said in a statement yesterday that it has "lately noticed that public meetings were called to be held at private diwanis to discuss certain topics."

The ministry called upon owners of the diwanis to comply with the laws and not to allow their diwanis to be used against purpose established by law and traditions.

The source stressed the importance of diwanis in Kuwait's social life as being a place for gathering of people to discuss their own affairs and to reflect the strong bonds between them.

He added that the law "has clearly distinguished between meetings held in private diwanis and open public meetings."

The source said: "It was lately noticed that public invitations were sent for attending meetings to discuss certain topics at private diwanis, a fact that violates the concept of diwaniya, established by laws and traditions."

The source urged citizens to abide by the true and correct concept of the diwaniya, calling upon owners of these diwanis to comply with the laws and prevent the use of their diwanis in matters violating laws.

The Ministry of Interior hoped citizens would co-operate with the ministry to maintain security and stability of Kuwait and prayed to Allah to protect Kuwait.

The diwaniya is a living room usually located outside every house in Kuwait to receive guests or friends. Some citizens usually open their diwanis every night on a certain day in the week where people gather to drink tea and coffee, play cards and exchange opinions and points of view through discussions of issues of mutual interest to Kuwaiti citizens.

The Interior Ministry source did not disclose the nature of the topics which have been discussed, but noted that the way of holding such meetings is far from the nature of the diwaniya gathering.



A file photo of people at diwanis.

Noriega urged to leave US an 'occupying power'

VATICAN CITY, Dec 29. (Agencies): The Vatican today called the United States an "occupying power" in Panama and angrily rejected demands that the Holy See's embassy hand over ousted dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega.

But chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Holy See was trying to persuade Noriega, wanted in the United States on drug charges, to leave the Panama City embassy of his own free will.

Navarro said the United States had no right to demand the handover of Noriega and also slammed psychological warfare by US invasion troops who have been blasting the embassy with loud rock music. He said this was a "very serious matter."

Briefing journalists in the Vatican on the case which has caused a deep crisis between Rome and Washington, Navarro said:

"An occupying power cannot interfere with the work of a diplomatic mission or demand that a person who is seeking asylum there be handed over to it."

Noriega sought sanctuary in the embassy from US troops on Christmas Eve.

Navarro said Nuncio (ambassador) Jose Sebastian Laboa was "doing his best to convince General Noriega to leave the apostolic nunciature on his own free will. But he (the Nuncio) cannot force General Noriega to leave the embassy."

He added: "Nor for reasons we have already discussed... can he hand him directly to American military authorities. This would be a decision counter to the principles of international law."

Navarro said he did not know how Noriega had responded to the request that he leave the embassy.

But he said only the new Panamanian government of Guillermo Endara could take custody of Noriega if he left. So



A US soldier holds a Panamanian child at a guard post of the Papal Nuncio.

far neither the Vatican nor the embassy had received any request from Endara for the ousted strongman to be handed over.

"If a person who seeks asylum is considered guilty of common crimes, it is up to the government to which that diplomatic representation is accredited to ask that this person is handed over to that government," Navarro said.

Asked about harassment by US troops surrounding the embassy, including loud radio broadcasts, Navarro said: "This is a very serious matter, there is the convention of Vienna... in which it is very clear that you cannot interfere with the diplomatic activity of a diplomatic representation."

"If this is going to continue, something should be done about that," he said in the Vatican's strongest statement so far on the case.

The White House played down harsh rhetoric from the Vatican today and said the (Continued on Page 12)

Year-end issue

Arab Times will tomorrow bring out the year-end issue with flashback on the year's and decade's major events. Don't miss the issue, lest you miss history.

Punjab rights restored

NEW DELHI, Dec 29. (UPI): The lower house of India's Parliament today repealed a constitutional amendment that allowed authorities to suspend civil rights in Punjab and gave police sweeping emergency powers to tackle the Sikh separatist insurgency in the northern state.

The motion was sponsored by the government of newly-elected Prime Minister V.P. Singh, whose election campaign pledges in November included a promise to open new initiatives to end Punjab's political bloodshed that has claimed 5,000 lives since 1983.

A repeal of the 59th amendment has been a major demand of many Sikhs, who have come to distrust the central government because of excesses committed by security forces under the emergency powers.

See page 4

Writing off debts won't trouble banks

By M.C. Bose
Business Editor

WRITING off debts of small debtors according to the new directives of the government will not pose any problem for commercial banks or the Central Bank of Kuwait, Jassem Al Saadoun, a well-known Kuwaiti economist has said and added that the settlement of these debts will give commercial banks the opportunity to concentrate on more important issues.

The economist said that the value of the difficult loan problem is estimated at KD2.2 billion of which KD900 million are against mortgages and consequently the deficit stands at KD1.3 billion.

Further, the total number of debtors under the difficult loans settlement programme is about 1,350 debtors and establishments, of whom only 54.2 per cent owe banks only KD55 million. The deficit of these small debtors is even less than this amount, he said.

The problem now is with the rest of debtors whose deficit is over KD1,140 million out of the total debt of KD1.3 billion. Saadoun

called for thorough investigations into the final standings of big debtors before applying any settlement to them. Such measures would ensure not only public funds and reserves, but would result in inducing more trust and confidence among the public and investors would ensure the supremacy of law and equality in application.

Speaking on future prospects of Gulf banks, Saadoun said that they are not united in size or experience and performance. For (Continued on Page 14)



President Havel

Playwright Vaclav Havel, jailed for five years for his human rights activities and long denounced in the communist media as an enemy of the state, was sworn in as President of Czechoslovakia yesterday.

Full story Page 5

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Ahmad: 19°C 66°F
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Ahmad: 10°C 50°F
Falaka: 10°C 50°F
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Tourists find Londoners helpful, friendly but streets dirty

LONDON, Dec 29, (AP): London's record number of overseas tourists in 1989 found the people friendly but the streets dirty, the London Tourist Board said today.

The board said early estimates show more than 9.5 million overseas visitors spent £3.6 billion (\$5.2 million) in 1989. That was an increase of 4 per cent from 1988, when 9.1 million overseas tourists spent £3.4 billion (\$5.4 million).

A summertime survey of 1,200 overseas tourists by the London Tourist Board and

the British tourist authority found that 90 per cent thought Londoners were helpful and friendly.

But the survey also showed that visitors thought London streets were littered and filthy.

"London has been gaining a reputation for being a city which is not tackling the problem of litter as effectively as it should," the report said. "It is clear from the responses that London's streets were seen to have a little problem with just over half considering it to

be a big problem."

One-quarter of overseas tourists to London came from North America, and about half came from Western European countries.

"The United States still remains the most important source of overseas visitors to London this summer with just under a fifth of all those interviewed," the Tourist Board report said.

The attraction most overseas visitors are likely to see is the 11th century Tower of London, home of the crown jewels.

Shaved by Disney for refusing to shave

LONG BEACH, California, Dec 29, (AP): The first officer of the Queen Mary said he'll probably be the next to walk the plank following firings of two waiters whose moustaches ran afoul of a Walt Disney Co. grooming code.

First Officer John Magnets said he planned to keep the moustache he has worn for 42 years while serving on ships around the world.

"I'm going to work, punch in as usual, and if they want to fire

me, they can find me and fire me," Magnets, 65, said, adding that he would fight the anticipated dismissal in court.

Waiters Reza Nazareh and Tom Nicolai were dismissed Christmas Eve for refusing to shave facial hair forbidden by Disney, which owns the leaseholds on the permanently docked ocean liner in Long Beach harbour.

"I got a beautiful present from the Disney corporation — my

pink slip," said Nazareh, a 12 1-2-year Queen Mary employee.

Nicolai, 26, said the 35-year-old Disney policy barring facial hair is out of date.

Both men said they would file union grievances protesting their dismissals.

The grooming code bans moustaches, beards and long hair on men. Bright eye shadow, red fingernails or two-toned hair for women are forbidden.

"I am Iranian," he said. "This moustache is part of my culture. It is a thing of pride."

New genetic Aids test for newborns

BASLE, (Switzerland), Dec 29, (Kuna): Medical researchers have successfully applied a new sensitive genetic test to detect the Aids virus in newborns of HIV-infected mothers, thus making it possible to start treatment early.

According to research-based pharmaceutical firms here, doctors have had until now no reliable diagnostic test of viral infection in newborn infants. For perhaps 15 months, babies have maternal, usually protective, antibodies, but they are a confusing factor in tests.

Puts clocks in time with planet 'Leap second'

WASHINGTON, Dec 29, (AP): Poised on the brink of a new decade the world will pause tonight for just a second. A "leap second" will occur at the very end of Dec 31, 1989, making it the longest day of the year.

The extra second is needed to keep the world's clocks in time with the rotation of the planet, according to timekeeping officials. The turning of the earth has always been the time standard for humans, who marked the passage of days by the hours of light and darkness and years by the seasons as the planet moved around the sun.

Accurate

But while early timekeeping sought to measure the planet's movement, today's clocks might be called more accurate than the Earth itself.

"Time measured by the rotation of the Earth is not uniform when compared to time kept by atomic clocks," reports the US Naval Observatory, the US government agency in charge of keeping track of what time it is.

As a result of this difference, atomic clocks can get out of sync with the earth and have to be adjusted. Since it's the atomic clocks that are used to set all other clocks, a leap second has to be added or skipped from time to time to make up the difference.

Fifteen leap seconds have been added to human time since an international time agreement was signed in 1972, when a full 10 seconds had to be added to the atomic clocks to get them together with the Earth's.

Standard

Tonight's leap second will be the first in two years. The leap second will occur officially at 23 hours, 59 minutes and 60 seconds, Co-ordinated Universal Time, when a one-second pause will occur before the arrival of zero hours on New Years Day. Co-ordinated Universal Time, popularly known as Greenwich Mean Time, serves as a standard reference for the world's timekeepers.

Sensor test for Galileo

PASADENA, California, Dec 29, (AP): NASA has started testing sensors aboard Galileo, five days after the spacecraft successfully fired its thrusters for a second course correction on its journey to Venus and Jupiter.

"We're testing all of the scientific instruments to ensure they are ready to observe Venus" when Galileo whizzes past the cloud-shrouded planet Feb 9, said Jim Wilson, spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's jet propulsion laboratory.

On Friday, Galileo fired its thrusters during a 2 1-2-hour period so that it will fly about 6,300 miles (9,977 kms) above the Venusian cloudtops, Wilson said.

"The manoeuvre went off exactly as planned," Galileo mission director Neal Asman said.

Wilson said another manoeuvre may be needed in late January to fine-tune the spacecraft's trajectory. The first trajectory manoeuvre was performed in November.

Galileo was launched from the space shuttle Atlantis on Oct 18.

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\$1m gold heist

LOS ANGELES, Dec 29, (AP) — Two gunmen posed as customers before robbing a jewellery district wholesaler of more than 100 pounds (45 kilograms) of scrap gold and gold products worth about \$1 million, police said.

The two owners and five employees were tied up in the robbery Wednesday at the Rope Mine Corp.

At least 103 pounds (47 kilograms) of fine gold, gold chains, locks and scrap bars were stolen from an open safe in the offices of the downtown jewellery district company, said Khatchik Djigardjian, who owns the wholesale business with his brother, Lioudig.

"It's a pretty good-size robbery," said detective Manny Garcia, who estimated the haul at 115 pounds (52 kilograms) of gold.

Djigardjian said the robbers pressed the door buzzer about 8 am (1600 GMT) and were in his sixth-floor office. There was momentary business talk, and the men said they were from New York. Djigardjian said he was then suddenly held at gunpoint and never made a move for the unloaded shotgun propped against his desk or the loaded gun in his desk drawer.

The men handcuffed him in his office, he said, and the employees were called in singly, then tied up.

LOS ANGELES: Sylvester Stallone has sued an art broker for \$5 million, claiming she led him to pay millions of dollars more than he should have for several artworks.

The fraud and breach-of-contract suit, filed Tuesday, charges that Barbara Gargasi persuaded Stallone to pay \$1.8 million for a painting she told him was an excellent investment.

After buying it sight unseen, the star of the "Rocky" and "Rambo" movies said he discovered that 25 per cent to 30 per cent of it had been restored or retouched and that its previous owner had tried for some time to sell it. (AP)

ST CHARLES, Missouri: A former cook at a restaurant owned by Chuck Berry has filed a lawsuit accusing the Rock 'n' Roll star of secretly videotaping women using the restroom.

Blossom A. Black, who worked at the Southern Air in Wentzville, about 30 miles (50 km) from St Louis, said that she and other employees and customers were taped and that it humiliated her and caused her emotional distress.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday in state court seeks unspecified damages. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Actor Gregory Harrison and other celebrities are coming to the aid of small charities because of a new group that helps celebrities without a pet charity find one.

Harrison, of CBS' now-defunct series "Trapper John, M.D.," said he's thrilled the celebrity outreach foundation exists because, "we needed an agent that could put us together with charities and causes."

Unlike other groups that arrange for celebrities to bolster the visibility of charities, the non-profit celebrity outreach foundation doesn't charge fees for the service. It helps non-profit organizations with annual budgets under \$2 million. (AP)

DUNLEWY, Ireland: Irish lawbreaker Pat Gallagher has married a woman who served nine years in prison after being convicted of Irish Republican Army activities in Britain.

Anne Gallagher, 38, and her sister Eileen Gallagher, were sentenced to 15 years in prison for conspiring to cause explosions and possessing explosives. They were released in 1983.

The trial judge described the sisters as "misers and evil IRA bombers."

Gallagher, 41, said earlier this year that his wife deserves a chance of a normal life. (AP)

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's only known progeria sufferer died Thursday following a heart attack three days before his 17th birthday.

Fransie Gertranger was admitted to Daleview Nursing Home 20 miles (32 km) east of Johannesburg Wednesday after complaining he was not feeling well, and placed in an oxygen tent in the hospital's intensive care unit, the Johannesburg daily the Citizen reported.

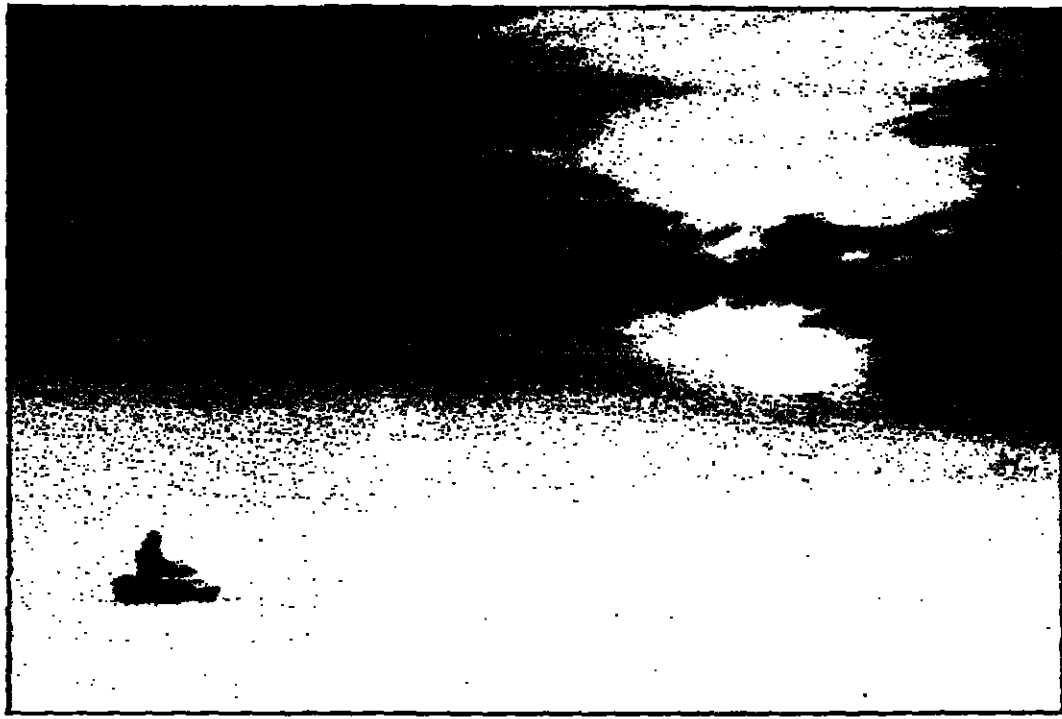
He suffered two heart attacks while in hospital, the second of which was followed by a lung infection, a hospital spokesman said. (AP)

WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court denied Thursday the city of Pittsburgh's request to block the display of a Menorah outside the city-county building.

The ruling gives an orthodox Jewish group named Chabad the ability to keep the oversized Menorah, a Jewish candlestick with nine branches, outside the government building throughout the Hanukkah holiday.

However, supreme court chief justice William Rehnquist and justices John Paul Stevens and Antonin Scalia said they would have granted a motion to block the Menorah. (UPI)

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Lone snowmobile
A lone snowmobile heads across the vast expanse of Lake Erie which has frozen over for the winter. (Reuters wirephoto)

PECOS, New Mexico: Actress Greer Garson Fogelson is reconsidering the sale of her 10,000-acre (4,050-hectare) ranch after learning the proposed buyer would convert it into a resort, her representatives said.

Although the 81-year-old Mrs Fogelson had decided at one point to sell the ranch, she no longer is certain after learning of the extent of the proposed development, spokeswoman Jean Carpenter said Wednesday in Dallas, where the actress lives.

Pecos National monument

superintendent Linda Stoll said last week that Indian ruins at the monument could be damaged by air traffic and housing if the adjacent 10,000-acre (4,050-hectare) forked Lightning Ranch along the Pecos River in central New Mexico became a resort. (AP)

NEW YORK: Nadia Comaneci, Romania's Olympic gymnastics champion, said Thursday she will tell her life story in a two-hour movie made possible by the fall of the Ceausescu government in her native country.

"Now that my family is no longer threatened by Ceausescu and his family, I can tell my whole story," said the 28-year-old Romanian defector after signing a contract with TV personality-producer David Frost at his Manhattan office.

"through my story, I hope that I can help people, to ensure that people never forget what the communist dictatorship did to the people of Romania," Comaneci said in a statement issued by David Paradise Television Inc., Frost's production company. (UPI)

WASHINGTON: A US firm that put telephones on planes now wants to include "fax" (facsimile) and computer data transmission as well.

In-Flight Phone Co. announced that it asked the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for a license to test several new services.

Air-to-ground fax, to be used by fliers with portable machines plugged into the back of airliner seats.

Computerized plane reservation check, for those running late to call ahead to an on-board computer allowing confirmation of seating, departure times, change of reservation or buying a new ticket; Transmit computer files, allowing plug-in of personal computers into an airplane jack for sending data to home or office. (Kuna)

SANTA BARBARA, California: Dogs see the world as more colourful than black and white, but they cannot distinguish some colours such as yellow, green and orange, a new study concludes.

Three dogs helped scientists at the University of California, Santa Barbara, dispel the belief that dogs are colourblind, according to a study published in January's Scientific American and in the Journal Visual Neuroscience.

The yearlong study found that dogs do distinguish colours, but it also showed the animals have limited colour vision, similar to men who suffer from a type of colour blindness once known as "green blindness." (AP)

BEVERLY HILLS, California: Actor Willem Dafoe said he was attracted to the role in the new film "Triumph of the Spirit" in much the way he was drawn to his roles in "Platoon" and "The Last Temptation of Christ."

Dafoe, whose acting career took off two years ago after the movie "Platoon," is back in the spotlight again with his new film. (AP)

CLIO, Michigan: Actress Zoo Zee Gabor received 11 votes in a nationwide poll to pick the year's top whiner.

That made her the winner over "Today" show host Bryant Gumbel, former First Lady Nancy Reagan and Tammy Faye Bakker, wife of former PTL Ministry leader Jim Bakker.

Gabor apparently pulled ahead of the crowd to be honoured for National Whiners' Day because of her conviction this year for slapping a police officer.

The results of the poll — 45 votes were cast from around the country — were announced by Kevin C. Zahorney, who says he invented Whiner's Day four years ago because of his experiences working in a fast-food restaurant. (AP)

LEWISVILLE, Texas: Actor Brad Johnson gave a couple of hundred hometown friends a private screening of the new Steven Spielberg movie "Always" for Christmas.

Johnson plays the amiable pilot Ted Baker, who falls in love with another pilot Dorinda, played by Holly Hunter, of "Broadcast News" fame, after her boyfriend, Pete is killed in a rescue. Pete is played by Richard Dreyfuss.

A former rodeo competitor and model, Johnson says the film jokes fun at perceptions of ruggedly handsome men. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Musician Neil Young is taking the bitter with the sweet. His recent album "Freedom" has been critically acclaimed but isn't getting much radio play time to display its creative wares.

"Freedom" recently hit a modest No. 35 on the Billboard Charts, even though music critics have praised it lavishly. Young says he fails to get radio play time because he has dared to be experimental with his work during the past decade, and because he often gets boxed in as a "classic rock" artist on tightly formatted radio stations. (AP)

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'Born on the Fourth of July,' 'Glory' among Golden Globe nominees

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Dec 29, (AP) — Golden Globe nominations went to the films "Born on the Fourth of July," "Glory" and "When Harry Met Sally..."

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association gave five nominations each to the two war-oriented films, one about Vietnam, the other on the civil war, along with the modern romance comedy "When Harry Met Sally..."

Those movies were followed by "Dead Poets Society," "Do the Right Thing" and "The Little Mermaid," with four nominations apiece.

The Golden Globes, first of the Hollywood award season, often serve as a bellwether for the Oscars, though the Foreign Press members are noted for eccentricities.

The Foreign Press also makes television awards, and the leading nominee was "L.A. Law" with eight, "Cheers" and "Lonesome Dove" followed with four each.

The Golden Globes will be presented on Jan 20, when the Foreign Press Association also will present its Cecil B. DeMille Award to Audrey Hepburn.

The awards divide films and star performances into two categories, drama and musical or comedy.

Nominees are:

Motion picture (drama) — "Born on the Fourth of July," "Crimes and Misdemeanors," "Dead Poets Society," "Do the Right Thing," "Glory."

Motion picture (musical or comedy) — "Driving Miss Daisy," "The Little Mermaid," "Shirley Valentine," "The War of the Roses," "When Harry Met Sally..."

Actress performance (drama) — Sally Field in "Steel Dawn," Jessica Lange in "Music Box," Andie Macdowell, "Sex, Lies and Videotape," Michelle Pfeiffer, "The Fabulous Baker Boys," Liv Ullmann, "The Rose Garden."

Actor performance (drama) — Tom Cruise, "Born on the Fourth of July," Daniel Day-Lewis, "My Left Foot," Jack Lemmon, "Dad," Al Pacino, "Sea of Love," Robin Williams, "Dead Poets Society."

Actress performance (musical or comedy) — Pauline Collins for "Shirley Valentine," Meg Ryan in "When Harry Met Sally..." Meryl Streep, "She-Devil," Jessica Tandy, "Driving Miss Daisy," Kathleen Turner, "The War of the Roses."

Actor performance (musical or comedy) — Billy Crystal, "When Harry Met Sally..." Michael Douglas, "War of the Roses," Morgan Freeman, "Driving Miss Daisy," Steve Martin, "Parenthood," Jack Nicholson, "Batman."

Supporting actress — Bridget Fonda, "Scandal," Brenda Fricker, "My Left Foot," Julia Roberts, "Steel Magnolias," Laura San Giacomo, "Sex, Lies and Videotape," Dianne Wiest, "Parenthood."

Nudist Hall of Fame Photographer honoured

LOS ANGELES Dec 29, (AP) — A photographer who led a fight to legalize nudity on private property and spurred Kodak into returning snapshots of naked subjects has been inducted into the Nudist Hall of Fame.

Ed Lange, 69, was "utterly delighted" with the American Sunbathing Association's decision to place him on the 25-year-old honours list, said Chris Moran, spokesman for the Elysium Fields Nude resort that Lange founded.

"It is a great honour from his perspective," Moran said.

Lange was credited with persuading Eastman Kodak in the 1950s to change its policy of refusing to return pictures of nude people that were sent in for developing.

Lange, whose photos have appeared in Time, Life, Vogue, and Harper's Bazaar, opened Wylisium Fields in Topanga, west of Los Angeles, in 1967, and battled Los Angeles county to overturn its anti-nudity law.

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Gunmen ambush police in Punjab

TARN TARAN, India, Dec 29. (AP) Gunmen ambushed police in a Sikh temple in Punjab, India, yesterday and at least four policemen were killed, police said.

The gunmen suspected to be Sikh extremists ambushed the police at the Darbar Sahib temple in Tarn Taran, a rural area in the northern state of Punjab bordering Pakistan.

The temple, one of the holiest Sikh shrines, is next in importance to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, about 25 kms (15 miles) to the south.

Deputy inspector-general of police Gurinder Singh Bhullar said the fighting began after the extremists ambushed and killed the four policemen manning a picket outside the temple.

"The extremists then ran inside taking with them a wireless set, a light machine gun, three rifles and some ammunition of the policemen," belonging to the paramilitary central reserve police force, Bhullar said.

"It was a planned attack on our force," he said.

The extremists defended their positions for an hour as about 500 policemen besieged the temple and exchanged fire, he said.

There were no apparent casualties among the militants, according to worshippers inside the temple during the fighting.

About 85 Sikh devotees came out with their hands above their heads after the shooting stopped, and police found no militants inside.

In an apparently unrelated incident, Jagdev Singh Khudian, a new Sikh member of parliament, disappeared from his home in a Punjab village early Wednesday.

State police chief K. P. S. Gill ruled out the possibility of his having been abducted by Sikh extremists.

Khudian belonged to the Akali Dal (Mann group), a semi-religious Sikh party which enjoys the tacit support of Sikh separatists.

Karachi mayor escapes gunfire

KARACHI, Dec 29. (Agencies) Identified gunmen today fired shots at the home of Karachi's mayor, an opponent of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, but he escaped unhurt.

"There were at least two gunmen who were hiding in my small house before my security guards challenged them," Farooq Sattar said. "They jumped and fled while firing at the guards."

Sattar is a leader of the Mohajir National Movement, which broke with Benazir's ruling Pakistan Peoples Party in October to join an opposition alliance.

Police said they were investigating the incident but had no details.

Army troops have arrested 86 people, bulldozed 20 houses and seized numerous heavy weapons in a sweep of Pakistan's frontier arms-trading town of Datta, it was reported.

Singh moves to check corruption

Bill unveiled to 'free' TV

NEW DELHI, Dec 29. (Agencies) The ruling National Front moved today to fulfil two major campaign vows, unveiling bills to give autonomy to state broadcast media and create a tribunal to probe corruption charges against cabinet officers, including the prime minister.

The two measures were introduced in the lower house of Parliament, which is controlled by Prime Minister V. P. Singh's five-party minority alliance with the support of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party and a communist coalition.

Singh and other National Front leaders pledged during the campaign for late November parliamentary polls to reform state-run Doordharshan Television and All-India Radio because of alleged misuse by the former Congress (I) Party government of Rajiv Gandhi.

Rajiv and close associates were severely criticised for reportedly ordering pro-administration programming and news coverage and ensuring unfavourable exposure for their opponents.

The legislation introduced by Information and Broadcasting Minister P. Upendra would create an autonomous broadcasting corporation of India to oversee Doordharshan and All-India Radio.

"No matter how enlightened the government, control impedes the free flow of information," Upendra said. "Control is the first step toward destruction of democracy."

The government also introduced legislation to set up a panel of three serving or retired

Supreme Court judges who would investigate complaints of corruption against the government, including the prime minister and cabinet.

"We are prepared to sacrifice one government in order not to destroy democratic institutions," Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh told parliament.

He said introduction of the bills showed his National Front government was committed to "issue-based politics rather than personalised politics."

Law and Justice Minister Dinanath Goswami introduced legislation to create a special tribunal that would have the power to investigate allegations of corruption.

India will press Swiss author-

ities for help in tracking down alleged illegal defence contract payments from Sweden's Bofors company, Singh said today.

"Very soon the matter is going to be taken up with the foreign governments through diplomatic channels and with Swiss authorities," he told Parliament.

Singh said Bofors paid money to Indian agents through secret Swiss bank accounts to win a \$1.3 billion contract for field guns in 1986, despite the fact the agreement said no middlemen would be involved.

Rajiv denied the charges, but was unable to escape the stigma of wrongdoing because his government's half-hearted efforts to investigate the deal fuelled impressions that he wanted the truth concealed.

Last top Lanka radical killed

COLOMBO, Dec 29. (AP) The last senior leader of the Sinhalese extremist People's Liberation Front has been captured and killed, officials said yesterday.

Other reports said the dominant Tamil guerrilla group ambushed and killed more members of a rival organisation and that at least 67 people were killed in 48 hours in twin ethnic wars.

Pro-Indian Tamil guerrillas ambushed and killed at least 18 members of the rival Tamil Tigers militia in northern Sri Lanka, residents said today.

The attack in the Vavuniya district occurred last night, barely 24 hours after the Tigers ambushed and killed 26 members of another Tamil band in the same area.

Tamil residents in Vavuniya, 217 kilometres (135 miles) northeast of Colombo, said the People's

Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam attacked a Tiger patrol in Musalkutti southwest of Vavuniya last evening.

The residents were contacted by telephone and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, professing confidence that the government had at last broken the back of the People's Liberation Front, said Saman Piyasiri Fernando died in a gun battle after he was taken into custody Tuesday in a Colombo suburb.

"According to a police report, Fernando died when a police team escorting him was fired at from inside a house," Wijeratne told reporters at his weekly news conference.

"In the police fire, six more male persons were killed inside the house, and one of them was recogni-

sed as another high-ranking member of the JVP, known as Ragama Soma," said Wijeratne, who is also deputy defence minister.

JVP is the Sinhala language acronym for the People's Liberation Front.

The front's supreme leader, Rohana Wijeweera, was captured in November and subsequently died in what the government described as a shoot-out. Two other top front leaders died under similar circumstances about the same time, according to government announcements.

Military officials said 29 other Sinhalese were killed in the past 48 hours in assorted other violence in central and southern Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese heartland where the front launched its campaign of terror and assassination against the Sinhalese-dominated government in the summer of 1987.



A collapsed roof of one of the buildings damaged in Newcastle. (Reuters wirephoto)



A man lies amongst the rubble in the Worker's Club in Newcastle, north of Sydney. (Reuters wirephoto)

10 killed in Aussie quake

140 hurt, 21 remain trapped in rubble

NEWCASTLE, Australia, Dec 29. (AP) Rescue workers risked their lives in the teetering wreckage of a club today recovered another body, bringing to 10 the official death toll from the first Australian earthquake known to have killed people.

Police said the first aftershocks had struck Newcastle, with a tremor registering 1.5 on the Richter Scale causing rescue workers to abandon their search until daylight.

A police spokesman said there were no reports of injuries or further destruction following the three-second jolt at 8.15 pm (0815 GMT). He had no further details.

Regional health director Dr. Owen James said 140 people were treated for injuries after the tremor yesterday and 16 were still in serious condition.

Police and rescue teams said today there could be up to 21 people still trapped in the two concrete floors of the Newcastle Workers' Club that crashed into a basement parking lot when the quake hit.

Seven of the dead were in the club and three others were killed by falling masonry and awnings in a nearby suburb of Newcastle, Australia's fifth largest city, 75 miles (120 kms) north of Sydney.

Rescue teams demolished a factory adjoining the club to get access to the wreckage. Caving experts crawled into the ruins and infra-red imaging devices were used in the effort to find survivors.

The city's central business district, littered with glass and broken masonry, remained sealed off today as army engineers inspected buildings



Cars crushed and overturned in the car park of the Worker's Club. (Reuters wirephoto)

damaged by the quake, which measured 5.5 on the Richter Scale. A magnitude 5.4 quake caused considerable damage. Scientists at the Canberra-based Australian Seismological

Centre said the quake was one of the most severe on record in the country and the first known to have killed people in Australia since it was settled by Europeans in 1788.

Police spokesman Tony Tamplin said many of the damaged buildings in Newcastle may have to be demolished.

Authorities estimated that half of the single-story buildings and three-quarters of the multi-story structures in Newcastle's central business district sustained major damage.

"We're still receiving reports of damage 36 hours after the event," Tamplin said. "Some residents have returned from Christmas holidays to find their homes damaged but in other cases damaged buildings are deteriorating. Where there was a crack yesterday, today there's a gap."

Water and telephone services were gradually being restored, a Newcastle city council officer said. The council met in emergency session today to assess the damage and plan relief programme.

The premier of New South Wales said the damage was "so massive" that federal aid would be needed to rebuild the city.

State Premier Nick Greiner, who cut short a visit to Hawaii to return to inspect damage, said his government would see if it was feasible to build earthquake protection into buildings.

Tiananmen rallies curbed

BEIJING, Dec 29. (Agencies) Beijing has outlawed unauthorized rallies in its central Tiananmen Square, hallowed centre of Chinese communism occupied earlier this year by massive pro-democracy protests.

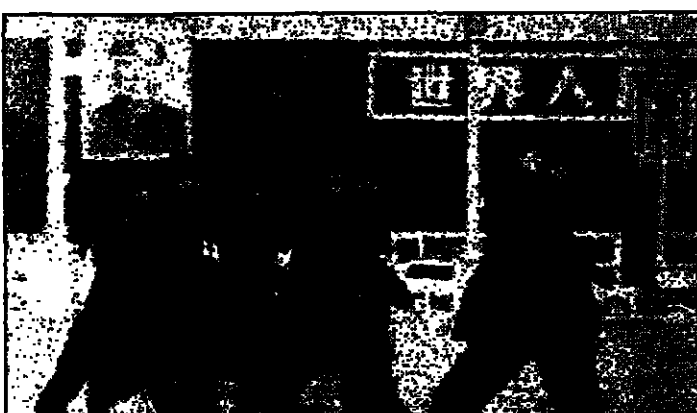
The official New China News Agency said today that Beijing's municipal leaders had passed a new decree forbidding "gatherings, rallies or demonstrations" in the square without prior permission.

The huge square, site of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung's mausoleum and other communist shrines, has been guarded round the clock by armed martial law forces since June.

The municipal ruling puts into writing what has been during the past six months an effective ban on all unauthorized entry — a ban imposed by armed might.

"The square is the site where national political gatherings and greetings ceremonies for foreign guests are held," the agency quoted He Ying, deputy director of Beijing's police force as saying.

"A solemn and respectful atmosphere with good social order should be maintained there," he said.



Martial law troops bundled up against the frigid weather, march through Beijing's Tiananmen Square as reinforcements are scattered across the capital to prevent unrest related to developments in Eastern Europe. (Reuters wirephoto)

The decree took effect yesterday as hardline Premier Li Peng called on the nation's armed police to strengthen their vigilance against "enemies who dare to sabotage the socialist system."

Police this week reinforced security around Beijing University campuses where posters appeared satirising China's leaders.

The Beijing Daily, representing the municipal communist authorities, gave prominence

today to detailed regulations on demonstrations, including the rule on Tiananmen Square.

Anyone wanting to hold a rally must lodge an application spelling out its aim, style, slogans, number of participants, route and the names, addresses and professions of its leaders.

Security personnel are empowered to use force to break up any gathering that is unauthorized or that they deem disturbs the social order. Offenders may be detained, the newspaper said.

India began to pull its troops out shortly after the September agreement, but it soon became clear it would not complete the withdrawal by the end of the year.

Singh came to power heavily critical of the original dispatch of troops and held talks with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne on the withdrawal only days later.

But Wijeratne went back to Colombo with no commitment to stick to the projected end-of-December deadline and has made some trenchantly critical remarks since.

He blamed Indian bureaucrats for finding logistical excuses for not pulling out the troops on time, but has not directly criticised India's new government.

Senior Indian officials said arguments Rajiv used for not pulling out hastily still pertained.

Malaysian leader sues: The deputy speaker of Malaysia's parliament has sued an opposition leader and a local newspaper for alleging that he appeared in pornographic videotapes.

D. P. Vijayan, court reporters his lawyers filed defamation suits in a high court against Karpal Singh, deputy chairman of the main opposition Democratic Action Party, and the Tamil Osai newspaper on Thursday. (Reuters)

Bus catches fire, 22 dead: At least 22 passengers were feared killed and 17 suffered burns when a bus caught fire in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on Thursday, a news agency reported.

United News of India said the cause of the fire was not immediately known. (AP)

Singapore plans laws: The government plans to enact laws to help preserve religious harmony among Singapore's Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs at a time of intensifying competition for followers, a government report said Thursday.

The bill would allow the government to ban public speeches or writings by anyone deemed to be stirring up ill will between religious groups or promoting a political cause or subversive activities under the guise of religion, said the report, called a White Paper. (AP)

Cold claims 33 lives: A cold wave sweeping through northern Bangladesh has killed at least 33 people in the past week, a newspaper reported Thursday.

The New Nation said the victims were labourers and other poor people unable to protect themselves from temperatures that have hovered at about 6 degrees Celsius (42 Fahrenheit) since Monday. (AP)

Nu barred from polls: Burma's military rulers have barred the country's last democratically elected Prime Minister, Nu, from running in next May's general election, the government spokesman said Friday.

Officials also said popular opposition figure Aung San Suu Kyi would be allowed to run provided she obeyed election law.

Drastic change in China: Two prominent Chinese dissidents said Thursday the ouster of Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu may encourage a similar uprising by the Chinese people or a coup d'etat by reform-minded officials.

"(Chinese) people may now realise that their striving for democracy should not be restricted to peaceful means," said Su Xiaokang, a Chinese writer who escaped to Paris following the June crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Beijing. (AP)

Bar fire kills 14

SEOUL, Dec 29. (Reuters) Fourteen South Koreans died and three were injured when a fire broke out in a small bar in the southeastern town of Taean on Wednesday night.

Police said the death toll could rise as two of the injured were in a critical condition.

Most of the victims died of suffocation as they tried to flee the single-story building.

The blaze may have been caused when a kerosene heater was knocked over accidentally by an employee trying to refill it, police said. The employee was among the dead.

Scandal suspect to run in polls: One of the key defendants in post-war Japan's biggest political scandal said on Friday he will run in general elections expected in February.

Former vice-minister of education Kunio Takashi launched his unofficial campaign in his home electoral district of Fukuoka in western Japan. (Reuters)

Drug smuggling: The amount of cocaine smuggled into Japan in the first 10 months of this year was 66 times higher than in the same period last year, a national police agency report said on Friday.

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Manila transportation secretary quits

MANILA, Dec 29. (Reuters) Philippine President Corazon Aquino today accepted the resignation of her transportation secretary, under fire for massive traffic snarls in Manila.

Reinerio Reyes quit after being criticised for failing to solve a chaotic public transport system and the shortage of public transport in Manila that left commuters stranded late at night.

Aquino said in a statement she accepted the resignation of Reyes with "deep regrets."

No major changes are expected when Aquino announces a cabinet reshuffle on Sunday. Army rebels, accusing the

President and her cabinet of incompetence, this month attempted a coup, the sixth military mutiny faced by Aquino since she took office in 1986.

The rebels have demanded she fire Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos for tolerating corruption in the military and bungling the war against communist insurgents.

Businessmen and the media have criticised the cabinet for breakdowns in public services, including frequent power cuts and a chaotic public transport system.

The communist rebel New People's Army (NPA) admitted

yesterday they fired shots at the US Information Service (USIS) office in the southern Philippine city of Davao and warned of more attacks on Americans.

"The Dec 24 dawn strafing of the USIS is the NPA's response to the intervention of US imperialism," said a statement sent by the rebels to news agencies in Davao, 960 kms (600 miles) south of Manila.

"Let the Dec 24 incident be a reminder and a warning to US intervention. The Dec 24 attack may not be the last affair," said the rebels, who accused the United States of meddling in Philippine affairs by supporting the government of Aquino.

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Havel sworn in as President

Dubcek chosen chairman of Parliament

PRAGUE, Dec 29. (Agencies): Playwright Vaclav Havel, jailed for five years for his human rights activities and long denounced in the communist media as an enemy of the state, was sworn in as President of Czechoslovakia today.

He was ushered onto the dais by Alexander Dubcek, the former communist leader who was returned to public office as assembly chairman on Thursday. Dubcek had spent two decades in political obscurity after Soviet tanks crushed his "Prague Spring" reform

"I promise that I shall not fail your trust and I shall lead this country to free elections," the dissident-turned-head of state told tens of thousands who packed into a castle courtyard. "These elections must take place in a clean and decent way in order not to tarnish our revolution."

The cheering crowd, waving blue-red-and-white national flags chanted "the moment has come" and "long live the president" as Havel and his wife Olga stood on a balcony.

Nominating Havel as the sole candidate for the office, Prime Minister Marian Calfa said: "Although he had been forced to live on the fringe of society, he has retained his moral integrity."

The election of Havel, 53, was agreed last Friday at talks between the communist party, the opposition movement Civic Forum and other political groups after huge demonstrations forced the communists to relinquish their stranglehold on power a month ago.

After the unanimous vote in the castle's medieval Vladislav Hall, scene of the coronations of Bohemian kings, Havel entered the vaulted chamber to a trumpet fanfare and standing ovation.

"I swear on my honour and conscience, my loyalty to the Czechoslovak socialist republic," Havel proclaimed.

The oath was altered by the assembly on Thursday to delete a

movement in 1968.

All 323 members of the federal assembly, the national parliament, elected Havel at a ceremonial session at Prague castle, making him the country's first non-communist president since 1948.

Only seven months ago, he was in prison for subversion. But attempts by now fallen hardline communists to silence him failed and Havel was propelled into office by massive popular pressure which brought about a peaceful revolt ending one-party rule.



Havel and his wife Olga greet Prague citizens after being elected today at the Prague Castle. (Reuters wirephoto)

pledge to "serve the cause of socialism". Civic Forum has called for changing the official name of the state to the Czechoslovak republic in a planned new constitution.

Havel, first sent to prison after co-founding East Europe's oldest human rights group Charter 77, succeeds orthodox President Gustav Husak who quit under pressure on Dec 10.

The playwright, whose dramas and essays had been banned in Czechoslovakia until last

month, has agreed to serve only until the elections are held. The government, in which non-communists now hold sway, vows they will take place by next June 2.

A 20-gun salute boomed out of the castle hill overlooking the capital as the national anthem was played in the stone hall, completed and then attended a thanksgiving mass in St Vitus Cathedral.

US President George Bush sent congratulations to Havel

and pledged US support for the rebirth of democracy in Czechoslovakia. The White House said the election marks "a fitting end to a year of astonishing change in Eastern Europe."

French President Francois Mitterrand, who met with Havel a year ago during a visit to Prague, offered "warm congratulations" to the dissident turned head of state.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised West German support for Czechoslovakia's pursuit of reforms.



Dubcek speaks

Ex-Politburo man charged with violence

PRAGUE, Dec 29. (Agencies): Former Czechoslovak Communist Party Politburo member Miroslav Stepan has been charged in connection with security force violence used to crush a pro-democracy protest, the state prosecutor's office said today.

Stepan has been charged with "preparing the crime of abuse of official public power," and faces three to 10 years in prison, prosecutor's representative Miloslav Kokes said.

He was the first former public official to be charged over the Nov 17 security force crackdown in which at least 167 people were injured. The protest triggered a series of huge demonstrations which swept the country's orthodox communist leadership from power.

Political reforms in Bulgaria

Muslim names restored

SOFIA, Dec 29. (AP): Bulgaria's Turkish minority will be allowed to adopt the Muslim names they were forced to change in an often violent campaign that began in the early 1980s, a senior official announced today.

The move was the latest in a series of political reforms in Bulgaria.

"Everybody in Bulgaria will be able to choose his name, religion and language freely," National Assembly chairman Stanko Todorov told ethnic Turks who had gathered outside the parliament building.

Muslims who had demonstrated since Thursday night in heavy snow burst into tears and hugged one another on hearing the announcement that they could use their own names.

"This is the best New Year's present the Turks could have," opposition activist Rumen Vodenicharov told Reuters. "It's the beginning of the end of a tragedy which began as long ago as the early 1960s."

The decision apparently was made by the Central Committee

of Bulgaria's ruling Communist Party, which convened earlier in the day for an emergency session to consider growing opposition demands for speeded-up reforms.

Sources close to the communist leadership said high-level changes in the state and party hierarchy also were being considered.

The name-change issue affected tens of thousands of ethnic Turks and Pomaks, or Muslim Slavs, living in the south of the country.

After the announcement, one Muslim told a rally outside party headquarters that the first birth certificate with a Muslim name in the past ten years — that of one-month-old Osman Bajram Huseinovic — had just been issued by the municipal registrar's office.

The forced name changes, coupled with increasing repression of the 1.5-million-member Turkish minority, prompted more than 300,000 ethnic Turks to emigrate to Turkey earlier this year after Bulgarian authorities gave them passports.

About 2,000 journalists also gathered in front of the party headquarters and staged a protest demanding freedom of the press.

Meanwhile, Bulgarian lawmakers moved up to Jan 15 a special session to discuss the elimination of a constitutional clause guaranteeing the Communist Party a leading role, according to the newspaper.

The call for an end to the party's political monopoly on power is one of the main demands of the Union of Democratic Forces, an umbrella organisation of independent political groups, trade unionists and environmentalists, that has mounted a strong challenge to single-party rule in Bulgaria.

In an unprecedented television appearance early today, Konstantin Trenchev, leader of the Podkrepa independent trade union, said economic changes must go hand in hand with political changes.

"Without democracy we cannot implement economic reforms," he said.

GDR puts Berlin Wall on sale

EAST BERLIN, Dec 29. (Reuters): Fortune seekers who sell pieces of the Berlin Wall in the West have a new competitor — the East German state which built it in the first place.

Seven weeks after it astonished the world by opening the wall, East Germany has announced it too intends to profit from the demise of the most detested symbol of the cold war.

A state foreign trading company, Limex-Bau, said it would raise money for East German charities by exporting pieces of the partially-demolished border wall.

"The proceeds will go exclusively to humanitarian causes in East Germany and to public health services," the official news agency ADN quoted the firm's manager as saying.

Border guards who for 28 years had orders to shoot anybody trying to reach the West across the four metre (13 foot)-high wall will be in charge of breaking it up into pieces.

Limex-Bau and a West German building firm, Herfurt Baustoffhandel, will stamp the chunks to prove their authenticity and supervise their export.

East Germany may be the most surprising entrepreneur to cash in on the apparently limitless demand for souvenirs of a generation of East-West tension. But it is by no means the first.

Ever since it opened its borders to the West on Nov 9, the sound of hammers smashing away at the Wall's western side, covered in political slogans and drawings over the years, has continued day and night.

Street vendors in West Berlin offer pieces of around 10 mtrs (\$6). They even rent out hammers and chisels for the independent-minded — though much of the wall's surface has crumbled to dust and souvenir-hunters are finding it hard to extract a sizeable piece with graffiti.

GDR fears growing neo-Nazism

EAST BERLIN, Dec 29. (Reuters): East Germany said yesterday that growing neo-fascism could threaten its transition from communism to democracy.

The Interior Ministry issued a long report on an increase in racism and virulent anti-communism among young thugs who, it said, had attacked punks, homosexuals, Jews and foreigners in the past year.

The report coincided with an article in the Communist Youth daily Junge Welt which quoted an expert on neo-fascism as saying: "At the beginning of 1988 there were around 1,000 organised neo-fascists in East Germany. Today there are far more, not counting the hordes of their supporters."

The public prosecutor's office said it had investigated 296 cases of neo-Nazi violence this year compared with 185 in 1988.

Recent pro-democracy demonstrations in Leipzig and Dresden have been marred by aggressive calls for a neo-Nazi fourth reich that would return a reunited Germany to its former might.

In a hate letter to judicial authorities in Rostock this week, neo-Nazis demanded the release of an "innocent" man convicted of murdering numerous Polish Jews, and called for a return to the values of Hitler's Germany.

Slogans demanding the withdrawal of some 380,000 Soviet troops stationed in East Germany were daubed on East Berlin's Soviet war memorial yesterday. The government blamed right-wing extremists for what it called a "monstrous act of vandalism."



An unidentified artist of the USA fixes a huge mock sticking-plaster onto the Berlin Wall in front of the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Differences acute

China gets Gorby letter

BEIJING, Dec 29. (AP): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a series of letters to Chinese leaders, with a senior Soviet envoy presenting the latest one yesterday, the official Xinhua news agency disclosed.

Xinhua did not say what was in the letters, but the latest missive comes as the two communist giants ponder the implications of Romania's ouster of communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu and the end of single-party communist rule in other East European countries.

The letter was given to Chinese party general secretary Jiang Zemin by Valentin Falin, director of the Soviet party's international department.

Xinhua said Jiang "expressed his thanks to Falin for the letter and to the Soviet ambassador, who had also passed on letters from Gorbachev to Jiang and Deng Xiaoping," China's senior leader.

Falin, who arrived on Saturday, is the highest-ranking Soviet Communist Party official to visit Beijing since May, when Gorbachev came to normalise state relations and restore party ties broken in the 1960s over ideological differences.

NOTICE

Supplying Store Company WLL, Agents for SONY and SANYO, requests customers and owners whose electrical equipment is held in the Company's Workshop for repair and who have failed to collect the same for more than six months should collect their equipments within (15) fifteen days from the publication of this Notice. Failing which, the Company will have the right to dispose off all such equipments in the way it deems appropriate without any responsibility.

THE MANAGEMENT

Lithuania launches multi-party system

MOSCOW, Dec 29. (Agencies): Authorities in Lithuania formally launched the Soviet Union's first multi-party system yesterday, registering the Baltic republic's new breakaway Communist Party and the pro-independence democratic party.

And Latvia abolishes communists' guarantee of power.

A journalist at Radio Vilnius said the republic's government announced the registration — two days after the Soviet party central committee held a heated debate on the decision by their Lithuanian comrades to break ranks.

The split, applauded enthusiastically by most Lithuanians, was overwhelmingly approved by the republic's communists in Vilnius earlier this month as part of moves to achieve a politically and economic "sovereign" Lithuania.

The creation of a separate party was seen by local leaders as the sole means of recouping the party's lost popularity ahead of local elections next February and

Yeltsin running for president of Russia

MOSCOW, Dec 29. (AP): Maverick communist Boris N. Yeltsin is running for President of Russia, the largest of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, a Soviet news service reported yesterday.

Yeltsin won more than five million votes in a landslide victory last spring to become Moscow's representative in the national parliament.

He will have to win a second legislative seat in the Russian Federation's Parliament before to seek the presidency. The Russian Parliament will elect the President from among its members.

Yeltsin has won wide popularity with his anti-elite stance and calls for more radical reform. He rejected a suggestion last spring that he run against Mikhail Gorbachev for the presidency of the whole country.

Russia is the largest republic in the Soviet Union, stretching from Leningrad through the vast spaces of Siberia to the Pacific coast. It contains about half the Soviet Union's population of 286 million people.

Voters in Ramenki, a town near Moscow, nominated Yeltsin, said Interfax, which is affiliated with state-run Radio Moscow.

March.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev attacked the split at this week's central committee plenum, saying it threatened the essence of his perestroika reforms. But the meeting took no decision on Moscow's attitude to the party — pending a visit to Lithuania by Gorbachev early in the New Year.

The Latvian Parliament voted

220-50 to follow the example of Lithuania and much of eastern Europe, eliminating from its constitution a section that makes the Communist Party the "leading and guiding force of Soviet society," said Vyesturs Kozols of the Latvian People's Front newspaper Atmoda.

He said the decision came after a stormy debate lasting more

than three hours.

The change is expected to reduce the party's grip on all spheres of life in the small but feisty republic on the shores of the Baltic sea. Like its neighbours Lithuania and Estonia, Latvia has a broad-based movement seeking independence from the Soviet Union, which forcibly annexed all three nations in 1940.

Japan closes book on 'lost bomb'

TOKYO, Dec 29. (AP): The Japanese government has quietly closed the book on the US hydrogen bomb lost at sea 24 years ago off the coast, creating a controversy in a country whose official policy bans nuclear weapons.

The Foreign Ministry said yesterday the US Defence Department had said further queries on the accident could endanger US military policy, and Japan did not intend to press for more explanations.

The case embarrassed both governments — Japan because it appeared to have turned a blind eye to passage of nuclear weapons through its waters, and the United States because its policy of not commenting on the location of such weapons came under new scrutiny.

In 1965, a US Navy A-4 Skyhawk accidentally rolled off the carrier Ticonderoga bearing a one-megaton H-bomb. The pilot died, and the bomb sank in waters 16,000 feet (5,000 metres) deep.

The incident was kept secret until 1981, when the navy said it had occurred 500 miles (800 kilometres) from land, but in May it was revealed that the bomb had sunk some 80 miles (130 kilometres) from a Japanese island in the Okinawa group.

Under pressure from the opposition Socialist Party and other anti-nuclear groups, the Japanese government insisted that Washington explain what had happened.

40 hurt as police fire at rioting boat people

HONG KONG, Dec 29. (AP): Forty people were injured after police fired tear-gas into the detention centre today to subdue stone-throwing Vietnamese trying to prevent a search for homemade weapons, officials reported.

The violence at the Chi Ma Wan centre on outlying Lantau island erupted one day after clashes between Vietnamese at another centre left one person dead and 10 injured.

Government spokesman Timothy Li said the Vietnamese at Chi Ma Wan also set fire to blankets after security forces arrived for the weapons search. Television showed police equipped with helmets and shields firing tear-gas, and smoke from fires could be seen rising above the centre, which houses more than 3,000 Vietnamese.

Police said tonight that 14 Vietnamese and 26 guards and policemen were injured at the

camp. They said 27 Vietnamese were arrested and more than 700 weapons seized.

Although officials refused to say how many police joined in the operation, the government-funded radio put the number at about 300.

The statement said five hours of counseling by staff of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and voluntary agencies failed to persuade the Vietnamese to cooperate.

Polish Interior Ministry proposes new police force as part of reforms

WARSAW, Dec 29. (AP): Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak presented plans yesterday a police force responsible for keeping public order and protecting citizens as part of ongoing reforms in his ministry, the Pp news agency said.

During a meeting with President Wojciech Jaruzelski, Kiszczak outlined the proposals to create a new force based on the present civic militia. In the past, the same force has been responsible for repressing the opposition and militant priests, bugging telephones and monitoring letters between private citizens.

Kiszczak told Jaruzelski that a name for the new police force was still under discussion, as was the

design of new uniforms, the agency reported.

"The police would be independent and would handle only tasks concerning protection of public order and protection of individual's security and their property," the agency said.

Kiszczak, one of only four communist ministers in the cabinet, said a new office for the protection of the state would be created to oversee activities by the intelligence and counter-intelligence services.

Kiszczak told Jaruzelski that the Interior Ministry, which now controls the civic militia, was conducting consultations with the Solidarity-led government and Members of Parliament about the proposals.

When the discussions are completed, Kiszczak said that he would ask Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki to start procedures to present to parliament a draft law on the new police force, Pp said.

Officials currently report about 1,250 crimes per 100,000 people annually, but there are increasing incidents of car break-ins and other crimes being reported as the economic situation in Poland worsens.

The Interior Ministry already has taken dramatic steps to improve its image tarnished during repressive years.

Just two weeks after parliament approved the new

Solidarity-led government on Sept 12, the Interior Ministry ordered the disbanding of all units of the widely-feared and despised paramilitary Zomo riot police.

The helmeted squads, with shields and batons were a regular feature at opposition demonstrations. They were replaced by "special preventive patrol units."

The International Institute for Strategic Studies put the number of Zomo at 28,000.

In October, the ministry also said it would disband the "fourth department" which oversaw the activities of the clergy.

Launch postponed

CAPE CANAVERAL, Dec 29. (UPI): The maiden launch of a Titan 3 rocket carrying two communications satellites was postponed 24 hours yesterday because of high winds and low temperatures in the seventh delay in a row for the most powerful US booster ever built as a commercial venture.

The 155-foot (47-m) Titan 3 had been scheduled to take off at 7:05 pm from launch complex 40 at the Cape Canaveral air force station adjacent to the Kennedy Space Centre.

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Problems face new Romanian leaders

Uncertain security situation, economic ruin, political underdevelopments

LONDON, (Reuters): Political underdevelopment, economic ruin and an uncertain situation face the disparate group of figures trying to run Romania after the overthrow of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, Western experts say.

They said four years of communism culminating in Ceausescu's increasingly autocratic 24-year rule had left the country more ravaged than the five other East European states that had opted this year for Western-style democracy.

"In the other East European countries, the old institutions of authority and the public organisations have survived," Oxford University historian Mark Almond wrote in London's *The Times* on Wednesday. "But the Romanians have inherited the task of dealing with a void by the disintegration of the old regime."

George Schoepflin of the London School of Economics said Romania lacked key components for government: "How do you build a political

system when the basic elements of that are missing? The place is a political vacuum and there is no state administration that functions."

Schoepflin described as "hopelessly optimistic" the proposal to hold free elections next April, a plan reiterated on Wednesday by new Vice-President Dumitru Mazilu.

Analysts noted Ceausescu, in addition to eliminating other political parties, built up the Communist Party to 3.5 million members — a far higher level than other Warsaw Pact countries.

This meant that about one in four Romanian adults was, or had been, a member of the now discredited party, raising the question of how they would participate in future political life.

Mazilu said the new Romania would not be communist and that the party effectively did not exist at present. But he implied it might be able to contest the elections if it reformed itself.

Romania is run at present by the National Salva-

tion Front, a loose grouping of anti-Ceausescu figures including former communists, dissidents and intellectuals.

Two new parties have surfaced this week, the Christian Peasant Party and the Romanian Democratic Party, but experts said that due to repression under Ceausescu these were even less experienced than countries elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

"There hasn't been the opportunity for dissidents to create the nucleus of an opposition," said Dennis Deletant of London University's School of East European and Slavonic Studies.

Historians said that, even historically, Romania had only a weak democratic tradition to build on.

Pre-World War Two politics were marked by corruption, violence and dalliance with Nazi Germany, ending in the rightist wartime dictatorship of General Ion Antonescu, who was executed in 1946, foreshadowing Ceausescu's fate 43 years later.

Economically, the country also faces a desperate situation, despite the fact that Ceausescu paid off Romania's \$11 billion foreign debt, analysts said.

The late dictator distorted the economy by concentrating, in classic Stalinist style, on developing heavy industry and collectivising agriculture even more rigidly than his communist neighbours did.

Romania's food exports — including, according to some Western estimates, more than 60 per cent of meat output — resulted in severe shortages at home.

The country will now need big infusions of Western aid and expertise, but foreign advisers will have to start from scratch. Private enterprise, tolerated on a limited scale by the Polish and Hungarian communists, was wiped out in Romania.

Western military experts said Romania's new authorities might also face armed resistance for some time from remnants of the Securitate secret police who tried unsuccessfully to prevent Ceausescu's overthrow last weekend.

Amnesty deplores quick executions

(Continued from Page 1)

"V for victory" sign as a convoy of tanks roared through the snowy capital in the afternoon.

Leaders of the Salvation Front downplayed the potential threat by Ceausescu loyalists still at large.

"There is no possibility of a counter-coup," said Kazimir Ionescu, vice-president of the front. "There may still be some fanatics but we hope they will be caught by the people."

Ionescu said details of the election and constitutional reform promised by the front were not yet available, and he admitted it would be difficult to hold free elections in April.

"We actually wanted to delay the elections," he said. "We are not prepared for this. We wanted to consult specialists from other countries."

The front is committed, however, to creating a fully open society "in which there would be room for all parties," Ionescu said.

In its statement today, the Salvation Front's council also announced private enterprise would be encouraged to allow farmers and small businesses to be more productive.

It also confirmed decisions announced earlier this week to guarantee press freedom and to ban exports of food in an effort to bolster scarce supplies at home.

In a reassuring signal to Moscow, the council promised Romania would honour all its international treaty obligations, including membership in the

Soviet-led Warsaw Pact, and would respect the 1975 Helsinki accords on human rights.

The provisional government also confirmed several appointments to government posts, including the nominations of Gen. Nicolae Militaru as defence minister and head of the police, and liberal intellectual Petre Roman as prime minister.

Ceausescu and his wife Elena were held prisoner in a constantly moving armoured car for the last three days of their lives.

Amnesty International yesterday said by international requirements for a fair trial in the summary tribunal and executions of Ceausescu and his wife Elena.

In a public statement the human rights organisation "urgently appealed" to Romanian authorities to respect human rights by guaranteeing fair trials, to all political prisoners "including members of the country's former administration and security forces."

Ceausescu acted as middleman for contacts between Israel and Iran which culminated in Israel's purchase of Iranian oil, an Ankara newspaper reported today.

The report in the English language Turkish Daily News, quoting unidentified diplomatic sources, said Ceausescu's trip to Tehran just before his overthrow last week was aimed at mediating the final phase of a covert deal between Iran and Israel involving oil and military spare parts.

Museum of madness

Ceausescu's dream home

BUCHAREST, Dec 29, (Reuters): Executed Romanian communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu lived in a dream house dripping with gold and silver and packed with art treasures while his nation starved.

Even his nuclear bunker was lined with marble.

Romanian authorities yesterday gave Westerners their first view of the house since Ceausescu was deposed, showing round a Reuters correspondent and photographers from Reuters and the French picture agency Sygma.

The sprawling two-storey villa with 40 rooms stands at the centre of a compound of a dozen houses for Ceausescu's ministers, generals and friends in northern Bucharest.

"I cannot even imagine a billionaire in the West living in such style," said Octavio Badesa, a musician who has joined about 500 soldiers and civilians guarding the house.

The house was briefly plundered last weekend during battles between Ceausescu loyalists and government troops who joined a mass popular movement against the 71-year-old dictator, overthrown last Friday and executed with his wife on Monday.

The journalists allowed in on Thursday saw foreign fashion magazines and Christmas decorations littering the floors.

The Ceausescus slept in separate apartments — and Elena Ceausescu's bore startling similarities to those of Imelda Marcos, unveiled after she and her husband, the late Philippines president, fled their Manila palace in 1986.

Rows of shoes were on display, some with diamond-encrusted heels made by Paris couture shoemaker Charles Jourdan. Mrs Ceausescu's fur coats, part of a wardrobe that also included hundreds of dresses, were strewn over her large unmade bed.

The late president's pyjamas still lay on the unmade bed he last slept in a week ago just before he fled the uprising. Three telephones stand on his bedside tables.



A pair of shoes belonging to Elena Ceausescu found in her private bedroom. The shoes are made by Charles Jourdan of Paris and have diamonds in the heels and on top. (Reuters wirephoto)

"It is almost too hard to understand. I hope one day this place will be turned into a museum of madness," said major Stancu Valentin, who escorted the journalists.

Visitors to the Ceausescu home were met in an entry hall topped by a golden dome, with rare vases standing around. Further inside the ground floor was the piano room, with a Vienna-made buchner grand piano badly out of tune.

All the rooms were crammed with paintings, valuable ornaments and gold-covered furniture.

"They had amazingly good taste considering he was not much more than a tyrannical peasant," said Badesa.

One Christmas card on show was from the Ceausescus' daughter Zoia, caught as she tried to flee with large sums of money since stored upstairs in the house

for safe-keeping. "Happy Christmas to my dear beloved parents from your daughter Zoia," the card read. Her parents were executed by firing squad on Christmas day.

Mrs Ceausescu had been learning English. British Broadcasting Corporation English-language videotapes were scattered round her room.

Ceausescu was apparently a fan of movies from the capitalist West. Every room boasts a West German television set, on which he could show French or American films from a stack piled high in one of his apartments.

Warm water flowed from gold-plated taps in the Italian-tiled bathrooms — in a country where ordinary people lived with electricity rationed to only a few hours a day and were lucky if the water was ever hot.



New Romanian President Ion Iliescu gestures before he starts the first meeting of his new government at the Foreign Affairs. Behind is Celu Voican, a member of the National State Council and in charge of the president's personal protection. (Reuters wirephoto)

Profile

From obscurity to premiership

BUCHAREST, Dec 29, (UPI): Petre Roman, Romania's new interim prime minister, has emerged as a leading non-communist, liberal in the fledgling government.

Born in 1944, Roman came from a communist activist background. Both his parents fought in the Spanish civil war in the 1930s before meeting and marrying in Moscow. They returned to Bucharest the year Roman was born.

He grew up in Bucharest but attended university in France before returning to Romania to become a university lecturer in the capital. His wife, Mioara, is also a lecturer and the couple have two daughters.

Roman, a former Communist Party member now regarded as a liberal intellectual, was never an outspoken public dissident under executed president Nicolae Ceausescu.

His rise to the office of prime minister under the provisional National Salvation Front was more or less an accident. He and his students were demonstrating in Bucharest on Dec 21 against the massacres reported in

the provincial town of Timisoara.

When tanks and troops moved in, Roman was among those who stormed the Communist Party headquarters and took control of Bucharest's television station and set up the now ruling National Salvation Front coalition.

Roman's new president and head of state, Ion Iliescu, is an engineer and a former fellow-student of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Born March 3, 1930, he joined the Union of Communist Youth in 1944 and the Romanian Communist Party in 1953. He worked in the Communist Party propaganda department before becoming minister of youth problems in 1967.

Iliescu was a member of the Communist Party Central Committee and a candidate member of the party's Politburo before his removal in disgrace in 1971.

On the occasion of a Ceausescu speech on the younger generation, Iliescu openly criticised Ceausescu and the conduct of his children Niku and Zoe, known for their colourful, jet-

setting lifestyle.

Iliescu was demoted to a regional office in the Communist Party, and from 1984 worked as manager of a technical publishing house, becoming a "silent dissident."

He commands great respect, particularly among Romania's younger people, for that stand against Ceausescu.

"The day that this movement is taken over by a political force, or by somebody, I shall go, it is clear," Roman said in an interview in Bucharest with the French television station Antenne-2.

"This revolutionary movement was the work of young people. I was among them. So this was their revolution," he said.

Roman spoke in excellent French during the interview, which Antenne-2 said was taped two hours before it was screened on the evening news.

The casualty-dressed prime minister, sworn in last Tuesday with the rest of the ruling National Salvation Front government, said he was thrust into prominence by pure chance.



A father and his daughter lay flowers at 'Romania Square' in Bucharest in remembrance of those who died during the national uprising in Romania. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dictator books head for pulping machine

BUCHAREST, Dec 29, (AP): Romania's national library is desperate for books, but not that desperate. The complete works of Nicolae Ceausescu are headed for the pulping machine.

"Perhaps we'll keep one copy of each, somewhere," allowed Angela Popescu Bradiceni, director since 1955, with a slight sniff. "After all, we are a library."

But a trigger of the revolution was the looming presence of the dictator's numbing words, bound in bulk. They were stacked in the window of every bookstore. At the national library, they filled six long rows.

Enthusiastic workers have already carted off various translations of "on the way of building up the multilateral developed socialist society" — all 32 volumes, 700 pages each. The English edition was baled and to go.

Had anyone ever checked out

volume 26, for example, he would have learned: "The visit I have paid to Somalia at the invitation of President Mohammed Said Barre has yielded highly good results."

The pile included leaflets of speeches, collected mental musings and 12-ounce publicity packets to the glory of a man who travelled the world ceaselessly to exchange fulsome toasts and pose for photos.

One collection had almost identical covers. At the left, there was Ceausescu with slicked down jet black hair and a debonaire grin — a photo from 1957. At the right, there was someone else: former US president Jimmy Carter, former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, or whichever of his friends he happened to be visiting.

But not all the purged books were his. There was also "research in the field of systems and characteristics of macromolecules" by his wife, Elena.

"No one ever read this stuff, no one," said Virgil Tiberiu Spanu, director of acquisitions. "Never."

For the librarians, destroying Ceausescu's books was sweet revenge after being forced to hide away 10 per cent of their collection under lock and key.

Ceausescu's strict laws forbid anyone without a special permit to see books about Romanian politics since World War I, or even a mild dissident.



A militiaman holds two of Elena's fur coats in her bedroom at Ceausescu's private residence in Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nerve gas dumped into water

French doctors detect poison

NADLAC, Romania, Dec 29, (AP): A member of a French medical team said today that doctors detected the dumping of nerve gas into a Romanian town's water supply during the anti-Ceausescu revolt, saying five people were seriously poisoned before the substance diluted.

Once uprising leaders discovered the apparent sabotage in the municipal water tank in Sibiu, they drained the contaminated supply, said Auvin Heyndrickx, a Belgian doctor who treated some of the victims.

Heyndrickx said he went to Sibiu with a team of doctors from the French relief group doctors without borders upon hearing unconfirmed reports of the poisoning, which townspeople attributed to dictator

Nicolae Ceausescu's hated securitate police force.

Nestled in the Transylvanian mountains of western Romania, Sibiu was looted over by Nicu Ceausescu, who was captured by citizens last week and was being held by the new provisional government, which executed his father last week for numerous crimes, including "genocide."

Heyndrickx, a professor of toxicology at the University of Ghent, Belgium, spoke with United Press International as his team passed through the town of Nadlac near the Hungarian border on their way back to France.

The French team determined that two highly toxic nerve gases, known

as Sarin and VX, were dumped in liquid form into Sibiu's water on Dec 20.

Five people were hospitalised with severe poisoning, he said, describing their symptoms as vomiting and "unknown brain damage."

Heyndrickx attributed the relatively low number of injuries to the low concentration of the poisons in the water. "The quantity was very diluted," he said.

He held out hope that the brain damage suffered by the five victims would not be severe, but said the success of their recovery would remain unclear for days.

City workers drained and inspected the water tower before beginning the lengthy refilling process, he said.

Sidelights

Romanians go on shopping spree: Romanians, in a shopping spree that only two weeks ago would have been beyond their wildest dreams, are packing stores to show their children what oranges and chocolates look like.

"Now at last we can show the little children just what oranges are," said kindergarten headmistress Florentina Buzatu.

"We have young children who do not even know what oranges and chocolates are."

Romania's new government, scrapping policies of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu that brought Romanians to the brink of starvation, has channelled food previously marked for export back into the stores.

Sweden to give asylum to Securitate: Hounded members of executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's secret service are eligible for asylum in Sweden, Sweden's National Immigration Board said Thursday.

They fill all the formal criteria for being given political asylum, NTB chairman Per-Erik Nilsson told United Press International Thursday.

Agents of Ceausescu's feared Securitate who have continued fighting the new administration, faced a 5 pm (15.00 GMT) deadline Thursday to surrender or face special military tribunals and possible summary execution.

Money needed most by Romania: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it needed cash rather than emergency supplies to help Romania.

Relief groups will need funds for transportation and other operating costs, ICRC spokesman Jurg Bischoff said.

"There are needs still in Romania but they are not emergency needs," Bischoff told Reuters.

Red Cross societies have already sent or pledged to send 1,000 tonnes of relief aid and other groups have also flown

in emergency material.

Ceausescu ordered shootings: Deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu gave the orders to shoot on demonstrators in Timisoara where Romania's popular revolution began almost two weeks ago, the Hungarian news agency MTI reported on Thursday.

MTI, quoting a former employee at Romanian Communist Party central committee headquarters, said Ceausescu accused the army of sabotage and attacked Defence Minister Vasile Milea for not putting down the protests quickly enough.

The employee, who remained at the headquarters in Bucharest until Ceausescu was toppled last Friday, told MTI of the leader's last days and his desperate attempt to regain control of the country he ruled for 24 years.

Dalai Lama aids Romania: European villages, the Dalai Lama and a French bookshop chain all joined a swelling international aid effort for Romania on Thursday, and some agencies said the worst of the emergency was over.

The United Nations General Assembly appealed to all states and international financial institutions to offer humanitarian help after the downfall of the late president Nicolae Ceausescu.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross said immediate needs of staff, blood and equipment were being met following Romania's violent uprising, and cash was now the main requirement to fund transport and operating costs.

Burial for TV journalist: About 1,000 packed into a small chapel Wednesday to honour a French television reporter crushed by a tank as he reported on the revolution in Romania.

A Romanian flag with its communist symbols cut from the centre draped the coffin of Jean-Louis Calderon, 31, before his burial in the Parisian suburb of Poissy.

TV, radio played key role in Romanian revolution

BUCHAREST, Dec 29, (UPI): Control of Bucharest's television and radio stations has been a crucial weapon in toppling President Nicolae Ceausescu and repelling counterattacks by the executed dictator's infamous "Securitate."

The new Romanian government has been using the broadcast media to discredit the oppressive Ceausescu regime and to begin laying the groundwork for a more open society.

Across the country — in

flower shops, homes and hotel lobbies — television sets are left on all day, tuned to Free Romania Television for the latest news bulletins and commentaries from the new leadership.

"We are providing vital information. It's the major link in the country," said Aurel Dragos Monteanu, 44, the newly appointed president of Free Romania.

Graffiti throughout the capital of Bucharest, shaken by

gunfire for eight straight days, advises the public to avoid confusion and disorder by listening to Radio Free Romania.

Because of the television station's importance, the army had made it a fortress and secured the surrounding residential area to prevent attacks by the members of the secret police who have gone underground.

Some of the heaviest fighting during the last week took place at the television station compound. Houses across the street are

covered with bullet holes and the house of the British ambassador is burned out.

Troops block all roads leading to the television compound and visitors must undergo several security checks and searches for weapons.

Inside the building, broken glass covers the floors of hallways. Unshaven civil-guard volunteers sit at tables covered with loaves of half-eaten bread, wearily checking the identification of everyone who enters.

Handwritten signature or mark.

INTERNATIONAL

US south reels from cold

WASHINGTON, Dec 29. (Agencies): People in the southern United States just beginning to thaw out after four days of record cold struggled to patch water systems, reckoned their losses from crop damage and missed tourism in a normally busy resort week.

Consumers in the east and Midwest will soon be feeling the effects of the south's Christmas chill as the devastation on Florida's vegetable farms drives up prices in the grocery stores, agriculture experts said.

The long, cold weekend gave way to

mostly clear skies and temperatures in the 40s, 50s, even 60s (single digits to mid-teens Celsius) in much of the deep south on Wednesday and Thursday.

More than 100 deaths nationwide have been blamed on the cold since Dec 15.

In communities from Texas to South Carolina, plumbers worked overtime Wednesday to repair water pipes split in the freeze, and homeowners faced another day of dry faucets or low water pressure.

Governments hoping to restore water pressure begged people to conserve and to shut taps they left trickling to prevent

freezing.

In New Orleans, firefighters pumped water from a Bayou to fight an eight-alarm fire at an abandoned cannery, after leaks in pipes reduced water pressure throughout the city. And the same problem loomed elsewhere.

Shortages were reported in five Alabama counties.

Thousands of acres (hectares) of produce froze in the fields of Florida over the long weekend, and experts said wholesale prices began climbing Wednesday because of the short supply of

tomatoes, bell peppers, lettuce, cucumbers and other vegetables.

Florida Gov. Bob Martinez yesterday declared the entire state a disaster area because of the record-setting Christmas freeze, a move that could open the door to federal loans for growers who lost crops.

Martinez signed an executive order declaring the disaster and sent a letter to US Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yuetter asking for approval of the loans, after he toured freeze-damaged vegetable farms in southern Florida.



Floods in Brazil

Flooding worsened through Brazil's normally arid northeastern region and raised the number of homeless to 200,000, a civil defence said on Thursday.

Rain-swollen rivers overflowed and hit 175 cities and towns in eight of Brazil's 26 states, civil defence spokesman Silvio Reiner said by telephone from Brasilia, the capital, 744 miles (1,200 kilometers) northwest of Rio.

In northeastern Bahia state, 105,000 people were driven from their homes, he said.

Picture shows residents of Miracema, use a boat to leave the flooded areas of their town.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poachers slain

HWANG, Dec 29. (AP): At least four suspected rhinoceros poachers were slain in a Christmas day gunfight with Zimbabwe state game wardens, police said yesterday.

The men were shot in the Chizira Wildlife Reserve in northwest Zimbabwe near the border with Zambia.

Final exams

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 29. (AP): Only 42 per cent of South Africa's black high school seniors passed their final exams this year, the lowest rate since 1962, the government said yesterday.

Nationwide exams results for South Africa's three official race groups — white, Indian and mixed-race — have not yet been released. But in Transvaal, the most populous province, 94.3 per cent of the white students and 72.7 of the mixed-race students passed the exams.

Contra rebels

MANAGUA, Dec 29. (Reuters): Thousands of US-backed Contra rebels are flowing into Nicaragua from Honduras with the aim of disrupting February's general elections, a senior member of the ruling Sandinista Front said yesterday.

Commander Victor Turodo told a Workers Assembly that 1,500 Contras infiltrated Nicaragua from their Honduran base camps in December and another 1,500 would attempt to cross the border in January.

Hawaii earthquake

HILLO, Hawaii, Dec 29. (AP): A moderate earthquake shook Hawaii island's Puna district last Wednesday night, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, police said.

The earthquake was centered in the area of Apua Point and registered 4.6 on the Richter scale, said William Mass, a geophysicist at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre on the island of Oahu.

Holiday briefs

ESTELONDO, Dec 29. (AP): Pope John Paul II yesterday began the first full day of a brief end-of-year holiday at the Papal retreat in the wine-growing hills south of Rome.

The Polish Pope flew by helicopter Wednesday afternoon from the Vatican for a three-day rest after his round of Christmas religious duties.

Sinclair resigns

SANTIAGO, Dec 29. (UPI): Army Gen. Santiago Sinclair resigned yesterday as a member of the ruling Junta to become one of nine senators appointed by the government of President Augusto Pinochet.

Sinclair also resigned his post in the army, government officials said. He was appointed by Pinochet to one of the nine slots in the new Senate that is to take office in March of 1990.

New York fire

NEW YORK, Dec 29. (AP): Two girls tried desperately to get through a heavy window gate to escape a fire, but flames collapsed the ceiling of their apartment and killed them Wednesday morning, fire department officials said.

Sisters Della "Lilly" Montanez, 14, and Diana Montanez, 8, were found under the debris with tools from a tool box near their bodies, said fire department spokesman Efrain Parilla.

US considering to blockade Colombia

Carrier to track drug shipments

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas, Dec 29. (Agencies): The White House has said that President George Bush has approved the use of the US military to intercept drug transactions abroad, including a possible blockade of Colombia.

"We have decided to take certain options to help the countries of Latin America to interdict these supply routes. We are anxious to help Colombia," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

He was questioned on reports that the United States planned an air and sea blockade to cut off the flow of cocaine from Colombia. Fitzwater said final details had not been worked out, but that Bush had approved the outlines of a plan last week.

"I cannot confirm the details, but I can say the objectives, goals and purposes of that activity are correct," he added.

Reports quoted an unnamed

Defence Department official as saying the US planned "a virtual air and sea blockade" of Colombia to block the flow of drugs.

Fitzwater said the stepped-up role for the military was consistent with a pledge made by Bush in a Sept 6 speech unveiling his anti-drug plan. At that time, Bush spoke without elaboration of using military force against drug traffickers.

Fitzwater said the US action would be co-ordinated with Colombian authorities, who have declared war on drug cartels.

Most of the cocaine that enters the US is shipped from Colombia, which is also a major cocaine refining centre for drugs grown in neighbouring Peru and Bolivia.

Bush, on a hunting and fishing holiday in Texas, is due to discuss the anti-drug effort at a Feb 15 summit in Cartagena, Colombia, with the leaders of Colombia and Bolivia.

An administration official,

speaking on the condition of anonymity, said "We want to establish 24-hour monitoring" of air and sea traffic from cocaine-laden South America, particularly Colombia.

Although neither Fitzwater nor the official said the operation has final Bush administration approval, both indicated approval was anticipated.

Bush administration sources said the new interdiction effort is expected to be included in the White House's updated anti-drug strategy to be presented to Congress next month.

An administration official said the President, acting on recommendations from the Pentagon, intends to station an aircraft carrier off Colombia. The official said the vessel would be equipped with surveillance and intercept planes.

"We're not going to be shooting anyone down, but we want to be able to track them," the administration official said.

Unknown US group claims mail bombs

ATLANTA, Dec 29. (AP): A previously unknown group has claimed responsibility for mail bombs that killed a federal judge and a civil rights lawyer, and has threatened future assassinations "anytime a black man rapes a white woman," authorities said yesterday.

The claim was made in a letter received Wednesday by an Atlanta television station, Waga-TV, from a group calling itself Americans for a competent federal judicial system.

An official of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, a black rights organisation, said the NAACP had received a similar letter.

In a news broadcast yesterday, Waga-TV released excerpts of the letter from the group, which claimed it "assassinated Judge Robert S. Vance and attorney Robert Robinson in reprisal for atrocities committed on Julie Love," a white woman who was robbed, raped and murdered in Atlanta in 1988.

"Two more prominent members of the NAACP shall be assassinated, using more sophisticated means, as part of the same reprisal," the letter said.

Roh fires top party leader

SEOUL, Dec 29. (AP): President Roh Tae-Woo today fired his top party leader, who had proposed replacing the governing party with a new political group involving some opposition politicians.

"President Roh accepted the resignation of Chairman Park Jyun-Kyu, who stirred up a controversy in connection with his remarks on a political restructuring," chief presidential spokesman Lee Soo-Jung said.

Park, the No. 2 man in the governing party's hierarchy, was chairman of the Democratic Justice Party or DJP. He was relieved of the post after he indicated in a published interview that the government party could be replaced next year with a broad-based political group.

In an interview with the Dong-a Ilbo, a leading national newspaper, Park suggested ushering in a new political lineup by dissolving the ruling party to form a new "pan-national political group" that could include some opposition politicians.

Park also said Roh, who serves as head of the governing party,

could give up his party membership and remain neutral to oversee the restructuring.

He said such a restructuring could begin after local elections, expected in May next year. The local elections, the first in 31 years, would pass judgment on the current four-party system, he said.

The governing DJP was stripped of its parliamentary majority in the 1988 general elections for the first time in Korean constitutional history. The three main opposition parties took 166 seats in the 299-member unicameral assembly.

But the opposition parties, led by Kim Doo-Jung, Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil, haven't been able to work together.

Meanwhile, a governing party lawmaker resigned from the National Assembly after drawing criticism for alleged involvement in the military crackdown on a 1980 civil uprising.

The resignation of Chung Ho-Yong fulfilled a key opposition demand in the confrontation over disgraced former president Chun Doo-Hwan.

Bleak future for Africa predicted

ADDIS ABABA, Dec 29. (AP): The secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity said Africa enters the next decade facing "daunting economic realities" and a bleak future.

Salim A. Salim, in a New Year's message, spelled out the realities as a world economy unfavourable to Africa, mounting external debt, and civil wars.

Salim noted that continent continued to spend too much in an effort to repay its \$230-billion external debt while there was virtually no investment from the outside.

Debt repayment, Salim said, will hamper growth at a time when prices of African commodities world-wide are declining and cost of imports increasing.

He also noted, however, that civil wars and regional conflicts during what he described as "Africa's lost decade" led to waste of money and people and contributed to the continent's slow development.

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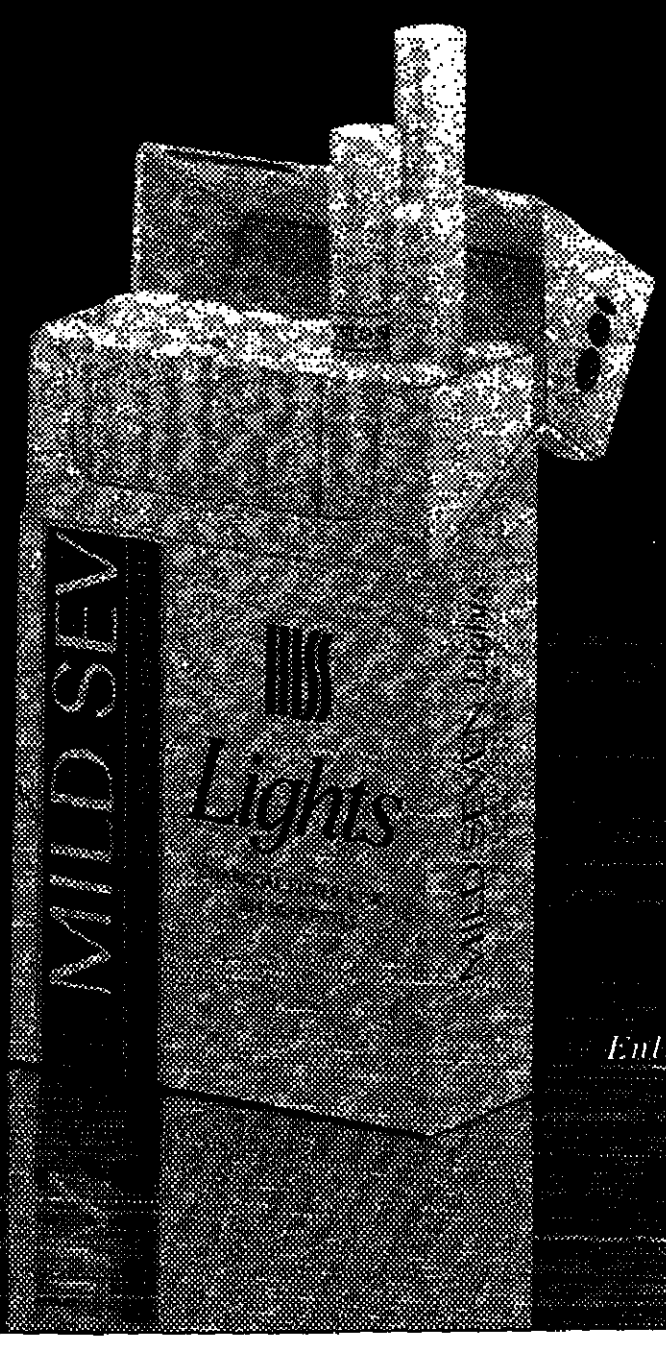
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KUWAIT ... GULF

Franco-Kuwaiti co-operation peaks in 1989

PARIS, Dec. 29, (Kuna): The year 1989 bolstered Franco-Kuwaiti relations and a new era of co-operation began, thanks to a summit meeting, exchange of visits of senior officials and cultural exchanges.

Mutual interests and the determination of the leaderships in Kuwait and France were the driving force behind the progress achieved in political, economic and cultural co-operation.

The peak was reached when the leaders of the two countries held a summit in the Elysee Palace last September.

HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and French President Francois Mitterrand met on Sept. 25.

"I point out the prosperous and growing relations between Kuwait and France in the various fields of development, and our experience with you enhances our confidence in possibilities to expand the horizons of co-operation between us," said HH the Amir in a speech at a dinner banquet given in his honour by President Mitterrand.

The visit of the Amir to France received special attention because he chairs the Islamic Conference Organisation while President Mitterrand is the current chairman of the European Economic Community.

Dialogue

Speaking on behalf of the Islamic world, the Amir said relations with Europe, throughout the centuries, have witnessed intervals of calm dialogue and violent conflicts.

"Now, we are aspiring for consolidating the friendly relations



'Kuwait in Paris' marked the start of cultural exchanges.

and strengthening the foundations of co-operation based on freedom of belief, co-operation and mutual respect," said His Highness.

President Mitterrand said the identical points of view on several international issues have paved the way for a continuous dialogue on various levels, and the visit of His Highness came to crown these contacts.

Kuwait and France have particularly close stands on the issue of the Third World debts, pointed out Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace dinner, recalling the declaration of His Highness in the UN in 1988 and France's intention to drop the debts of the poorest African nations.

During his visit, the Amir met with Premier Michel Rocard, Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, Scientific Research Minister Hubert Curien and Secretary of State Thierry de Beauce.

The Amir was also given a red carpet reception at the Paris municipality palace by the mayor and former prime minister Jacques Chirac.

"Paris is honoured to receive the symbol of modern Kuwait, a determined craftsman of peace in that region of the world and a friend of France," said Chirac in welcoming the Amir.

His Highness hosted a reception at the house of the Kuwaiti Ambassador, Dr Tareq

Razouqi, in honour of President Mitterrand. It was attended by Prime Minister Rocard, ministers, diplomats and French and Arab intellectuals.

Agreements

During the visit, Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi and his French counterpart Michel Charasse signed two agreements on the prevention of dual taxation and on guarantees on investments.

Paris, which became a capital of the world on several occasions in 1989, received Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad twice this year.

Sheikh Sabah led Kuwait's delegation to the international

conference on the prevention of chemical weapons last January 7-8. He returned to Paris in December to lead his country's delegation to the Euro-Arab dialogue conference.

Both conferences were chaired by President Mitterrand.

In February, French Foreign Minister, Roland Dumas stopped over in Kuwait for few hours on his way back home from Iran for talks with Sheikh Sabah.

The talks centred on means of promoting ties between the two countries in addition to the Lebanese crisis, especially that Sheikh Sabah was the chairman of a six-member Arab League committee on Lebanon.

In his personal capacity the Kuwaiti Social Affairs Minister, Sheikh Nasser Al Ahmad Al Sabah was in France last February to attend a session of the high council of French-speaking nations.

Cultural ties

Sheikh Nasser was received at the Elysee Palace by President Mitterrand along with member of the High Council, following his lecture at the Congress Centre in a seminar titled "Arab-Speaking and French-Speaking: Concurrence or Alliance."

The Secretary of State, De Beauce, who represented the French government in the seminar told the Kuwait News Agency that France values highly the cultural relations with Kuwait.

"I am very touched to know that Kuwait has offered scholarships to French students to learn the Arabic language in Kuwaiti institutions," said De Beauce.



Above: HH the Amir and Mitterrand confidently aspire to consolidate friendly ties; (below) HH the Amir at a dinner banquet given in his honour.



Education draft law completed: Shamlan

Language courses announced

KUWAIT'S Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlan has said that Kuwait is giving special attention to Kuwaiti students who are studying abroad.

He expressed hope that another university would soon be opened in Kuwait at a meeting with Kuwaiti students in Egypt. A large number of Kuwaitis are currently studying at universities and institutes in Egypt.

He disclosed that the Education Ministry has been working since 1988 to form the basic structure for scholarships. The objective is to provide guidelines and unify the system of granting scholarships. Scholarships are presently given by Kuwait University, Civil Service Commission and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

The Education Ministry, he

said, has prepared a draft law of higher education and is awaiting approval.

He defined the admission policy at Kuwait University and said the present policy aims at helping every Kuwaiti student a chance to join higher studies, be it at the university or at a technical institute.

Meanwhile, the Community Services Centre at Kuwait University will start registration for the next term from January 2. This was announced by the centre's director Jassem Matar.

The registrations will be made at the registration hall in Khaldiya, Faculty of Science, between 4 and 8 pm. A morning registration session will be held on Jan 7 for those who are unable to register in the evenings.

Students are required to pay a part of the fee on registration. He said this year, the fees have been raised by KD5 per student.

Previously, KD35 was charged for the course.

Applicants must be over 18 years old to join one of several courses offered by the centre. These include languages, translation, computer operation, typing and other subjects. A detailed list of the courses available can be obtained from the university.

Students who take language courses will be given a test to determine before admission.

The courses start on Feb 17 and last until May 20. Students are required to attend at least 75 per cent of the lectures. If they fail to do so, they will not be eligible to take the exams which will be conducted on May 19 and 20.

The classes will be held in the evenings on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Those who complete the course successfully will be given certificates.

Hawalli residents call for better services

No road signs, unclean sewers

INADEQUATE road signs, reckless driving and unclean sewers are some of the many problems faced by the residents of Hawalli suburb, one of the most populated areas in Kuwait.

A survey done by a local daily has found that most residents feel there is a lack of essential services and utilities in the suburb.

One of the residents, Abu Suhail said unpaved streets are neglected. This, he claims, leads to traffic jams in the suburb. He also complained about bachelor accommodation in buildings occupied by families and said this led to several problems.

Although garbage collection was done

regularly, and there were sufficient garbage disposal units, Abu Suhail said the municipality had neglected the sewage network. "The municipal authorities must clean sewage networks and wastes, especially at street intersections," he said.

Another resident, Bashir Al Marzooq was satisfied with the co-operative society network in Hawalli. He said the branches, spread throughout the area, provided essential services to the community. However, he was dissatisfied with the lack of supervision at groceries. He said groceries were not fresh and the prices were high. He also complained about the lack of security in the area.

Some residents praised the police efforts

to curb crime in the area, Hesham said regular police patrols were responsible for the low crime rate in the area. The suburb was also free of "beggars and peddlars," he said.

Hesham has criticised some young men who gathered near homes and disturbed families. He urged the authorities to curb this phenomenon and wanted traffic police to control congestion. He also said Hawalli needs more public gardens.

One of the main problems in Hawalli, said Abu Mahab, was the absence of clean roads. There are no roads or streets in the area and it was difficult to find one's way in the area, he said. He said many residents

were disturbed by trucks, which piled in the morning. Traffic accidents are high in the area. One reason is the lack of a sufficient number of speed breakers, particularly near schools. This endangered the life of many children, said Ibrahim Mashan.

Some attention should be paid to landscaping, said Mohammad Ahmed Youssef. He said the authorities should pay greater attention to beautifying the area.

Youssef also wanted the health authority to extend the opening hours at clinics. He said it was difficult for Hawalli residents to seek medical help at night hours, because they had to travel to other areas.

Omar Sharif steals hearts

Remarkably fit at 56

Yakub Razzaque
Arab Times staff

OMAR Sharif, the internationally acclaimed actor, received an enthusiastic welcome and stole the hearts of his throng of female fans when he visited Bahrain this week for the first time.

The famous Egyptian-born actor, widely hailed as one of Hollywood's greatest romantic heroes, was in the island for a day on the occasion of the inaugural launch of a new set of ladies perfumes, named after him and introduced into the Middle East market, starting with Bahrain.

The charismatic actor, heart-throb of millions of women world-wide, displayed his legendary charm at a press conference, Wednesday, at the Sheraton Hotel, to launch 'Parfume Omar Sharif Pour Femme'. In keeping with his famous screen persona, Sharif still managed to look immensely 'desirable' to his female admirers despite his advancing years.

For, even at 56, he looks remarkably fit and slim, every inch a gentleman actor oozing with sophistication and exotic charm. Initially appearing a trifle haggard, perhaps from jet-lag, Sharif soon got into his element by answering questions and flashing his famous irresistible smile.

Asked why he chose to launch his own perfume at this stage of his life, Sharif commented, "As I grow older my senses tend to become more important to me in respect to love of nature and beauty. I find this an artistic challenge. This is why I decided to create this perfume."

The actor answered questions — most from hordes of glamour-struck female reporters — with his characteristic elegant style and aplomb, like in the screen roles. He spoke eloquently in both English and Arabic, choosing words carefully and delivering them in his poetic style.

Sharif, immaculately dressed in a dark blue suit and red tie, became a sensation the moment



Omar Sharif

he walked in. The press conference, comprising the largest press corps to be seen in the island for a long time, turned out to become quite an event by itself as a bevy of awe-struck pretty girls sneaked into the room to catch a glimpse of their idol.

Later Omar Sharif posed for what seemed endless photo sessions — at least three dozen press photographers turned up — with fans and correspondents alike. The young ladies naturally liked posing with their evergreen hero, whose deep gaze melted many teenage hearts in the crowd.

The perfumery featured in 4 distinguished sets with the theme "For women who liken seduction

to a game" penned by the actor himself. The top brand, Parfume de Toilette Concentre in a crystal and 18 carat gold bottle (limited to just 1,200 individually numbered bottles, sold with a personal card and refillable for life).

A dinner was hosted at the Sheraton later to formally launch the products. More than 200 invited guests attended. The atmosphere was almost like the grand premiere of an Omar Sharif epic.

In Bahrain 'Omar Sharif perfume' will be marketed by Abdul Wahab Al Hawaj, the sole distributors of the product.

Court verdict

KD 40,000 compensation for hospital negligence

A KUWAIT court has ordered the Ministry of Health to pay KD 40,000 compensation to the family of a woman who died on an operating table at a local hospital.

The woman, a patient of the maternity hospital, died while undergoing an operation after an abortion.

The court heard that the woman was admitted to hospital for a D&C after a miscarriage and was taken to the operating room, where she was given anaesthesia.

The patient had high blood pressure, and the doctors were aware of her condition. A medical examiner testified that the patient had been neglected and her case was not managed adequately. She died due to a blood clot in the trachea and the fall in blood oxygen, which led to heart failure and brain death.

The case had been filed by the woman's father and husband, who blamed the Health Ministry of negligence. Medical evidence produced in court showed that the patient's death had occurred due to negligence on the part of the anaesthetist.

Education: stress on improving efficiency

New system to be adopted

A NEW system to evaluate the performance and efficiency of teachers has been adopted by the Ministry of Education. This was disclosed by the Director of Employment, Raja Al Mutairi.

Al Mutairi said a special form will be distributed to teachers and other employees from early next year. The new system has been designed to develop the administrative process, he added.

The official said that the department is striving earnestly to keep abreast with the latest administrative development concepts world-wide to enhance employees' performance and the modalities of the administrative process.

He added that last year, a comprehensive study had been instituted by the department with the objective of alleviating procedural bottlenecks at the ministry. According to the findings of this study, heads of sections and divisions will be authorised to proceed with the execution of some transactions without the usual red-tape.

Several instructions have been issued to officials on "the mechanics of finalising these procedures" and the optimum manner in which they should extend services to the public. He added that following the issuance of these instructions, the number of public complaints has been drastically reduced.

Yang ends Oman tour

MUSCAT, Dec. 29, (Kuna): Chinese President Yang Shangkun on Thursday left at the end of an official three day visit to Oman. He visited the country at the invitation of Sultan Qabous Bin Said.

Shangkun who made a Mideast tour covering Egypt the UAE, Kuwait and Oman, discussed with the Omani leader bilateral relations and means of developing them, as well as current international issues.

The Chinese President was seen off by Sultan Qabous as well as senior Omani officials.

PEDDLAR ROBBED: A Kuwait court has sentenced a man to three and a half years rigorous imprisonment for robbing a peddler.

The court was told that a motorist stopped his car and forced the plaintiff to ride with him. He told the peddler he was a municipal inspector and was taking him to the police station. The victim got into the car after seeing identity papers shown by the defendant. After he entered the car, the victim was forced to give over his wallet and other belongings. Later, he was ordered to leave the car. The victim, who had taken the licence plate number, reported the incident to the police.

The accused was driving his

Mubarak welcomes Khalifa

DOHA, Dec. 29, (Kuna): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has welcomed the forthcoming visit of the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani to Egypt in early January.

In a statement to Qatari dailies Al Rayah and Al Sharaq, President Mubarak affirmed Sheikh Hamad's visit will provide a good opportunity for the Egyptian people to meet with an Arab leader. It will also be a good chance for the exchange of information, ideas and analyses for current Arab and International issues, he added.

Big bang
Conflicting reports

KUWAIT, Dec. 29, (Kuna): Kuwaiti papers carried conflicting reports about a big bang heard on Wednesday in some parts of the capital.

Daily Al-Anba attributed the bang to the breaking of the sound barrier by a military plane which happened to be flying over the area.

Another paper, Al Rai Al Aam, quoted well-informed sources as saying the explosion-like sound was caused by two warplanes on a routine patrol over the sea when they received a radio message on the presence of a civilian aircraft in their flying area, instructing them to fly at low altitude toward the land. It

said the two planes carried out the orders. The planes, flying at full speed penetrated the sound barrier which caused the bang.

Meanwhile, daily Al Seyassah quoted residents in other areas as saying they felt "two slight tremors" which shattered the glass of some windows.

But the paper could not provide official confirmation to its report, saying the meteorological department apologised for not having quake measuring equipment.

It said the well-equipped Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research also could not provide a satisfactory explanation.

Malaysia King in Emirates

NICOSIA, Dec. 28, (Reuter): Malaysian King Azlan Muhiuddin Shah arrived in Dubai on Thursday on a private visit to the United Arab Emirates, the emirates news agency (WAM) said.

WAM said King Shah was received at the airport by Sheikh Ahmad Bin Said Al-Maktoum, head of Dubai Civil Aviation, and the Malaysian Ambassador to Dubai.

Kuwait to open embassy in Thailand

BANGKOK, Dec. 29, (Kuna): Kuwait is to open an Embassy in the Thai capital shortly, Thai sources, who wished to remain anonymous, told Kuna.

The sources were speaking to Kuna following Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al-Athbi's talks with the country's Premier Chaitchai Choonavan on means of boosting bilateral relations in oil fields.

Sheikh Ali, who arrived to this South East Asian nation on Wednesday, is scheduled to proceed from here to Indonesia.

Last March, Thailand's Minister in the premier's office in charge of oil affairs Korn Dabbarangsi visited Kuwait and extended an official invitation to Sheikh Ali to visit Bangkok.

Kuwait — a part of Europe

Reflections of good taste and sound planning

The deputy foreign minister of Cyprus visited Kuwait in December and expressed his impression of the country in a newspaper article. Excerpts are published below:

A PART of Europe in the Arab Gulf. This is an apt description of what Kuwait is today both from the point of view of appearance and quality of life. What has been accomplished is an example of what man can do through proper guidance, inspiration and discipline. It is a completely European city in both conception and execution. It is based on a town planning project offering great prospects of development. There are four-lane avenues, aesthetically beautiful buildings, parks and various other places for the comfort and amenities of the citizen and his family. In short, what we have is imaginative planning. Public buildings, hotels, shops, and business centres in general not simply comparable to, but even better than, the European ones. I want to clarify that all this has nothing to do with the "nouveau riche" mentality. Everything is organised with good taste and functions in a way that reflects maturity sophistication and a high standard of civilisation.

It is a democratic, tolerant state but loyal to its traditions, a political

system which has found the golden mean between doctrinaire ideologies and economic systems. Eighteen years ago there was talk about socialism with a human face and this has since remained a mere expression. Kuwait has successfully introduced a free economy system with a human face.

It is not my intention to describe the state system and to say in detail what has been accomplished and what the system is offering to all the inhabitants of Kuwait, who include several hundreds of thousands of foreigners who are guests in this country. I would like to deal with a couple of fields.

Landscape

Kuwait is being transformed from a desert of sand into a green landscape. Hundreds of thousands of trees of all kinds are continuously planted on the basis of a programme. Today squares and avenues are lined with trees and flowers. Moreover, hills, open areas have been aesthetically developed and planted with trees and also covered with grass. The desert is gradually being turned into small woods which in a few years will become a large forest. Already, experts say tree planting has started bringing about changes in the climate conditions from the point of view of temperature and rainfall.

The road system is among the best from the point of view of planning, effectiveness and quality of construction. It is the best because it was planned from the beginning with a bold vision and on the basis of the interest of the country as a whole. The wonderful road system does not only serve the needs of the citizen and the national economy but also gives the city the appearance of a civilised, organised and dynamic society. Construction is of a very high quality. The result is that despite the fact that temperatures in summer are much higher than in Cyprus roads do not suffer from the wear and tear of roads in Cyprus.

Architecture

Public buildings, private houses, town planning reflect again, both in conception and execution, the high degree of state planning and requirements. The result is an aesthetic and dynamic whole which contains all the necessary ingredients of a progressive city which cares not only for the present but also for the next years and the coming generation.

A lot has been done also in the field of internal tourism with the result that tourist complexes operate with great success.

Investment climate improves in Gulf

Efficient management stressed

DUBAI, Dec 29, (GNA): Efficient management of economic resources was underlined in a study conducted by the Gulf Investment Establishment. It has urged governments to encourage long-term investment projects and improve investment prospects.

The study was submitted by the deputy executive manager of the establishment, Dr. Jassem Al Menai at a symposium on the "Nature and Future of Investment in the GCC" held here recently. He points out that with the exception of some establishments and a few investors, who had been successful in diversifying their investment, there were other investor groups in the private sector that retained their traditional investment channels. They continued to keep liquid assets due to the lack of adequate initiative to identify the best possible investment prospects.

The study said an open-door investment policy pursued by some countries had given investors several advantages. These include the availability of numerous commodities and services in the regional markets and a variety of options and competitive prices.

The study added that the local business community, both national and foreign investors, besides the direct and indirect support rendered to them, led to losses sustained by local investors whose operations centred in the fields of industry and production projects.

The study stressed the significance of the new policy, particularly the increased effort to involve the private sector in investment activities and giving it the chance to own and manage

economic establishments.

Underlining the importance of encouraging investors to take part in the selection of investment spheres and projects, it said they could utilise their expertise to take up enterprises with higher prospects.

The study highlighted the basic conditions for ensuring success for the investment opportunity selective process which included the assumption that there was an active securities market which could transfer the proprietorship of economic establishments to a larger number of individuals or private sector establishments.

The study stressed the need to develop existing economic regulations in the region, pointing out to the double effort needed to qualify the local securities and capital markets to play a central role in the activation and improvement of the investment stakes in the region.

The study continued that the development of the regional securities markets is a prerequisite to ensure the continuity of investment activities and economic growth. This will provide the required funding, a short and long-term basis for financing new investment projects and expansion of existing companies.

The study also said that the current investment challenges and obstacles in the region did not include the scarcity or limitation of economic resources or the incapacity of the market. It pointed out that the availability of economic resources was the toughest to be used in measuring the growth or development of any country.

Kingdom beheads 4 murderers

NICOSIA, Dec 29, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia on Friday publicly beheaded four people convicted of murder, taking the total number of people beheaded this year to 99.

Interior Ministry statements read over state-owned Riyadh radio said two Saudi nationals were beheaded in the holy city of Medina for killing two fellow Saudis.

Two Indians were also beheaded after they were found guilty of murdering an Egyptian and robbing him, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

Their heads were cut off with a sword after Friday midday prayers in Al-Faisalya City in the southern province of Najran, SPA quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying.

Another Interior Ministry statement read over Riyadh radio said Fahd Mohammed Salem, a Saudi, had his right hand amputated after being convicted of theft in Najran area on the border with North Yemen.

Biman offers facilities for devotees

BIHAN, Bangladesh Airlines, will provide additional facilities for the pilgrims who will attend the World Islamic Congress (WIC) to be held in Tongi, near Dhaka, from Jan 2-22.

Biman has taken this decision so that the devotees do not face trouble while going to Dhaka. Additional seats will also be reserved for the devotees. The airline has also arranged special handling facilities at Dhaka Airport. The names of passengers will be teleaxed to the airline's headquarters so that devotees can get adequate services.

Viswa Jitima is held every year in Bangladesh. A large number of Muslims from all over the world join the congregation. Last year about 1.5 million Muslims attended. A number of Muslims from Kuwait are expected to take part in the deliberations at the Jitima.

The Jitima organisers hope the number of devotees this year will surpass that of last year.

Biman has arranged an additional flight to Dhaka to cope with the large number of passengers. The extra flight will leave Kuwait on Jan 5. Another special flight was operated on Dec 28.

Congratulations

HH the Amir has sent a cable of congratulations to the King of Nepal on the occasion of his country's national day.

Filipino envoy

MINISTER of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khalid Ahmad Al Jassar on Thursday received at his office the Philippines' Ambassador to Kuwait.

During the meeting, fraternal and cordial talks were exchanged between the two sides.



Science Club

Ahmedi Governor Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem has said that land has been allocated to build a branch of the Science Club in his governorate. Speaking to the members of the Science Club in Mishrif, he said there was a need to open a branch in Ahmedi. He said he has asked officials to expedite the setting up of such a facility. He was received by Abdullah Al Shahrani, chairman of the club and minister of communications. Pictures above and below show Sheikh Ali touring the facilities and meeting members of the club.



Bottling industry underdeveloped

THE bottling and packaging industry in the Arab World is still underdeveloped, despite the high-level of production, according to a recent economic study published by the Specifications and Standardisation Magazine issued by the Public Authority for Specifications and Standardisation in the GCC.

The study indicated that due to inefficient packaging and storing techniques, the GCC countries production of nutritional products is only 40 per cent of its capacity.

The study reiterated the importance of efficient packaging and bottling techniques, which is a significant factor in advertising the commodity and proving its validity for consumption, which will eventually increase marketing opportunities.

The need to promote this type of industry has increased due to the shortage in workforce and

qualified skills. In 1986 an agreement was reached to set up the Arab Centre for Bottling and Packaging where needed cadre could be trained to meet existing shortages in this field, the study said.

It added that the aim of the project is to provide technical and consultant services to the different Arab countries to help solve their problems, unify their bottling and packaging standards and set up specialised centres and labs for the services. Additionally, it is intended to explore the possibility of setting up a computer network to interlink these facilities to provide the needed data.

Within the framework of fostering joint co-operating in the Arab world, a number of government bodies have been active in holding symposia to utilise raw material, available natural resources and encourage joint projects in the field of bottling and packaging, the study said.

Change health centre timing

THE Mayor of Al Dhafer Area, Abdullah Al Muzayen has called on the Ministry of Public Health (MPH) to increase the working hours at the health centre of the area.

In an interview with a local daily, Muzayen said the closing of the centre at 9.30 pm compels citizens of the area to travel to Al Adan Hospital which is a distance away from the area. Closing the centre on Fridays also causes problems to the residents — especially the aged.

Speaking of the municipal services in the area, he described these as adequate. He added that his relations with the citizens were friendly. However, he said that there is a lack of co-operation between him and the area's co-operative society.

Objectivity urged

THE final session of the third conference of Arab Gulf Industrialists confirmed the importance of the appraisal of the economic and industrial investment atmosphere at each country in the Arab Gulf region, according to a local daily.

The conference recommended conducting in-depth appraisals based on objectivity to develop the investment atmosphere. The creation of a suitable investment scenario will be conducive to attracting funds and will eventually reactivate the private sector and propel it to play a more effective role towards the industrialisation process in the region.

The conference further confirmed the importance of economic integration among Arab countries and stressed the need for such integration to be based on encouraging the setting up of viable industries which should primarily designate Arab countries as natural and vital markets for these industrial products.

Amongst other recommendations of the conference, it called for enacting necessary legislations aimed at encouraging the exports of the Gulf region. It also called for encouraging scientific researches by setting up neces-

sary specialised centres and setting up a central organisation for research and development aimed at assisting local industrial corporations to incorporate latest technologies.

Further recommendations called upon the ministries of commerce and industry as well as the chambers of commerce and industry of the Arab Gulf countries to create the formation of a specialised department to look after industrial corporations and facilitate the merging of small corporations with large units whenever this would prove to provide optimum returns.

The conference went on to call for supporting the role of the chambers of commerce and industry by providing them with the necessary data by various authorities. Such feed-back is essential to enable the chambers of commerce and industry to play its role in formulating and executing the economic and industrial investments.

In conclusion, the conference called for upgrading the training schemes in the Arab Gulf countries and reiterated the need to adopt a training method to accelerate the administrative and technical development process in the region.

Student ailments disclosed

131 leukaemia cases

A TOTAL of 131 leukaemia cases have been discovered among students of the primary and intermediate stages during the last scholastic year, according to a school health official.

Speaking to a local daily, Dr Hussain Moemen, head of the School Health Department said that medical examinations conducted on students of the primary and intermediate stages had indicated 90 cases of measles, 373 German measles, 449 mumps, 2,820 smallpox and 32 tuberculosis cases.

A total of 792 students had been vaccinated last year against common measles and about 13,000 against German measles and 30,000 against child paralysis.

General illness among primary and intermediate students last year amounted to 6,083 from which, 1,293 related to diseases of the blood, 969 heart related diseases, 471 epilepsy, 94 audio problems and 328 speech related defects.

Over and above, the official disclosed that 96 students have been diagnosed as having child paralysis, 32 tuberculosis, 192 urinary tract problems, 117 diabetes, 1,474 asthma, 96 were defined as sub-normal and 868 students were diagnosed as suffering from a variety of ailments.

KOTC to set up gas plant, modernise fleet

Profit rises to \$55 million in 1989

THE Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) has recorded a sharp increase of profit amounting to \$55 million in 1989. This was disclosed by its chairman Abdul Fattah Al Bader.

Al Bader also said that his company was setting up a plant to manufacture gas cylinders for local consumption.

He attributed the profit to an improved market after the ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war; stability in the Arab-Gulf region and an increase in the demand for crude. He said the oil market has, in general, seen an upward trend throughout the year.

Bader said the limited number of oil tankers was not sufficient to cope with increasing demand for crude in industrialised countries. The official said KOTC concentrates its efforts to meet the needs of Kuwait to export its oil at the lowest cost so as to be competitive in the world oil market.

In this respect, he said that Kuwait was the first country in the world to utilise giant oil tankers (capacity 290,000 tons) to transport refined oil to the European market. The company has two such tankers Kazma and Fintas — each with a capacity of 290,000 tons. The company also has two new tankers — each with a capacity of 120,000 tons that can

pass through the Suez Canal.

The company has undertaken comprehensive studies to modernise its fleet and had contracted with a Korean company to build six modern oil tankers in 1987. He said that the deal was considered to be "historical" because the situation in the market had changed after the contract had been signed. The six tankers were contracted to be built at a cost of \$18 million and were duly received by KOTC this year. The cost of building the same ships today would have been \$40 million, an increase of 15 per cent, Bader pointed out.

The chairman disclosed that KOTC is studying the various feasibility reports of modernising its fleet by replacing its present fleet of oil tankers with new models. In this respect, he said that the company intends to build two oil tankers to carry the oil products with a carrying capacity of 35-40 thousand tons each and three others each having a capacity of 80,000 tons.

On incorporating these vessels into the company's existing fleet, the official said it will translate into KOTC being the most modern and largest fleet of its kind in the world.

Action Line

MY son was born in Kuwait and has been living here ever since. He is 20 years old and has gone abroad for further studies for five years. I applied to renew his residence permit for three years but was granted only one year after presenting an attested letter from the university where he is studying.

Please let me know if his residence permit can be renewed after it expires in a year. If not how can he visit Kuwait during vacation?

A.M.
IT is normal practice for the immigration department not to renew the residence permit of male students after the age of 21, even if the attested copy from a university is submitted. After 21, boys are eligible for work permits.

Unmarried girls, over 21, are given permission to stay with their parents, as long as the parents hold valid residence documents.

If your son's residence is not renewed after a year, you can call him on a visit visa during vacation.

To obtain a visit visa, you must submit a copy of the visitor's passport, documentary evidence of relationship; recently issued salary certificate; sponsor's Civil ID card; visa application form duly completed. A sponsor's salary must be "suitable to cover a visitor's expenses in Kuwait."

MY friend on visa No. 20 overstayed outside Kuwait for more than six months. Now, she wants to get a new visa. What are the formalities to cancel her old visa and get a new one? Is it legal to get her passport and cancel it here?

P.K. Thomas
HER passport can be sent to Kuwait, for example to the sponsor, to cancel the visa. The sponsor will apply for cancellation, giving the date of exit. If she wants to return to Kuwait on a fresh visa No. 20, her previous visa can be cancelled at the airport. However, if she is returning on the same sponsor's visa, it is preferable to cancel the previous residence permit.

I HAVE been working in Kuwait for about four years. My employers like my services and are really nice to me. Because they like me so much, they don't want to let me go. I only earn KD40 a month. I would like to go to Canada, but for that I need a release which my employers don't want to give. Can you help in this matter?

Lily Rosal
IT'S nice to know that your employers treat you well. You did not say what sort of job you hold, and for how long you have worked for the present employer.

If you are a housemaid, and have been working with the same family for four years, surely they would understand your situation and let you improve your prospects. If you have completed that contract period, and can't persuade them in a friendly manner, you can file a case against your employer in a court of law, saying you want to return to your country and ask the court to obtain your passport and have your visa cancelled. This will take some time but this is the only way out.

WE both work in the private sector and would like to sponsor a maid so that she can look after our children. Is a salary certificate needed for both the husband and wife while applying for a maid's visa?

A couple
THE issuance of a maid's visa is subject to several rules and conditions. For example, a citizen of a country cannot employ a maid from his country of origin. This has been prohibited by law. The immigration authorities also take into consideration if similar applications were made previously. If they feel that the applicant has a genuine case, and if he/she meets the requirements of the law, the visa is granted.

I HOLD a valid residence permit and my sponsor has given me permission to work in another company. Can I continue to hold the sponsorship of one person and work for another?

A reader
NO, you can't. Article 12, ministerial decision No. 87/1989, categorical states that a "labourer sponsored by a specific employer cannot be allowed to work with another employer even with the concurrence of the sponsor. (If this happens) the work permit of the employee will be cancelled and he will be deported from the country." A sponsor has to inform the ministry that a person on his sponsorship is working for someone else and the necessary changes must be made in the documents.

MY ageing father is in my country and there is no one to look after him. As I am eligible under the salary limit and earn a substantial salary, I would like to bring him on a dependent visa so that he can stay with me. Can you tell me how to obtain a dependent visa for him?

G.M.
IF your father had been living and working in Kuwait, and had retired, it would have been possible to sponsor him. However, the immigration law does not permit an expatriate to sponsor his parents — mother or father — living overseas on dependent visas. An expatriate can only sponsor his wife and children as dependents. If you wish to see your father, you can call him on a visit visa. However, the immigration department may refuse a visit visa for a person over a certain age for various reasons. But there is no restriction on submitting an application.

I HAVE been working in the public sector for the last 15 years. Recently, my services were terminated. I want to join a private company. Can I transfer my residence from the public to the private sector?

An expatriate
THE residence permit of government employees cannot be transferred to the private sector. If you want to join the private sector, you'll have to leave Kuwait and return on a fresh work permit.

Decision withdrawn

No istimaras for expats

HUNDREDS of expatriates last week rushed to the general traffic department to apply for istimaras (learner's licences) only to be told that the authorities had withdrawn an earlier decision to issue them to certain category of workers.

A rumour was afloat that the traffic department had lifted a freeze on istimaras (learner's licences), raising the hopes of hundreds of people who surprised the authorities by converging at the traffic department to submit applications.

Mohsen Abdul Rahman said his hopes had been dashed. "I was so happy that I could drive around the city and get my work done. I am now said that the decision has been suspended indefinitely," he said.

Some expatriates have been living in Kuwait for more than 10 years and have yet to apply for a learner's licence. Others have been trying unsuccessfully to get one.

Another hopeful, Ahmad Mohammad, said he did not understand behind "the announcement and the speedy withdrawal."

Bader pointed out that the limited number of oil tankers that were ordered in the past had contributed to stagnation in the ship building industry and consequently these docks suffered from stagnation 1987 through 1989. This lengthy stagnating period led to the closure of many docks.

However, after the year 1987, the scenario changed with the upswing in orders for tankers, shipbuilding docks benefited from the improvement of the market of oil tankers and began increasing their prices sharply.

Bader said that there are 380 oil tankers in the world, of which 320 work on a continuous basis. He added that all countries in the Third World need oil products. This would positively reflect on KOTC's plans to increase the volume. He added that transporting of oil products is more profitable for oil tanker companies as the former is not adversely affected as the market for crude oil.

KOTC's oil tankers are able to carry 55 to 60 per cent of total production of oil products that are produced by Kuwaiti oil refineries and reduces the pressure on transportation as opposed to international companies, Bader said.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ALL religions must be tolerated, for every man must get to heaven in his own way. — Prussia's King Frederick the Great (1712—1786).

Exile is 'the good life' for dictators

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Baby Doc Duvalier is ensconced in a French villa with his family, and the Saudi government reportedly foots Idi Amin's bills to the tune of \$3,500 a day.

As ousted Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega ponders a possible life in exile, he may be considering the fate of many of his predecessors who have fallen from power. Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu paid the ultimate price for his alleged misdeeds when a firing squad executed him last week.

But many other one-time tyrants escaped and today live a life of apparent luxury in exile. However, fear of assassination leads most of them to live in isolation.

In 1979, the portly, oft-married Amin was forced by a military coup d'état to flee his native Uganda for an undisclosed location. Although Saudi Arabia never confirmed it had given the Amin sanctuary, he is reportedly living the life of a head of state in a Jeddah villa with various wives, dozens of his children and an entourage of about 40 Ugandans, all of whom cost the Saudi government an estimated \$3,500 a day to feed, clothe and house.

Embarrass

Earlier this year, Amin embarrassed his hosts by flying to Zaire in an ill-fated attempt to return to Uganda.

Zaire slapped him on a plane to Senegal. The Saudi government publicly prevented him from boarding a plane for his home in exile. Several days later, the Saudi government reportedly let him slip back in through the proverbial back door.

Jean-Claude 'Baby Doc' Duvalier, who as a chubby teenager succeeded his late father Francois 'Papa Doc' Duvalier in 1971 as President-for-life of Haiti, clung to power for 15 years before mounting unrest among Haiti's 6 million people forced him into exile in 1986.

In the pre-dawn hours of Feb 7, 1986, Duvalier, his glamorous wife Michele, their infant son and an entourage boarded a US Air Force C-141 transport to France, where Duvalier took refuge in a villa reportedly lent to him by Saudi billionaire Adnan Khashoggi in the French Riviera village of Mougins. He is believed to have taken with him \$500 million embezzled from Haiti, the Western hemisphere's poorest nation.

On June 23, 1987, a French court dismissed a \$120 million lawsuit against Duvalier brought by the government of Haiti, trying to recover the money.

Like Amin, though, Duvalier's thoughts have turned to returning to his native country.

Exile

"Two years of exile — that's two years too long lost in a life, but especially lost for Haiti and for its people, whose conditions of existence have only spiraled into violence and anarchy," Duvalier told Paris Match magazine in 1988.

Alfredo Stroessner, who was Paraguay's president for 34 years before he was ousted in a military coup Feb 2-3 last year, took refuge in Brazil with his son Gustavo and daughter-in-law.

The 76-year-old former strongman is reportedly living comfortably in a posh suburb of Brasilia, where the high fence surrounding his compound is his main security. He is reportedly living in a villa with his wife and children, and he is reportedly living in a villa with his wife and children, and he is reportedly living in a villa with his wife and children.

Jean-Bedel Bokassa, who ruled the Central African Republic for 13 years as its self-proclaimed emperor before being overthrown in a 1979 French-backed coup, arrived in France unexpectedly from the Ivory Coast in 1983 with his large family and a larger entourage.

Torture

Opponents called Bokassa the "Butcher of Bangui" and a cannibal, charging he tortured and killed about 100 school children who had protested against the high cost of school uniforms.

Bokassa reportedly fled his country with \$1 billion and boasted of his seven French villas, but at one point telephone service and electricity in his castle were cut off for nonpayment of bills. When his water was shut off, he threatened to demonstrate in front of President Francois Mitterrand's Elysee Palace. The water was restored the next day.

Bokassa lived in the 19th century Hardcourt Castle in suburban Yvelines, atop of forested hillside 30 miles (48 km) west of Paris, but he called it a prison.

"I will not live out the rest of my life as a prisoner," he told an interviewer in 1983.

Arrest

Bokassa flew home on Oct 23, 1986, where he was arrested, tried and sentenced to death. His sentence was later commuted to life in prison.

Not all exiled dictators end up in France. The United States has accepted its share as well.

Ferdinand Marcos, who fled the Philippines in 1986, lived in a modest home in Hawaii until his death earlier this year. But his remains remain exiled — barred from being buried in his homeland by order of President Corason Aquino, as do those of his mother.

The Shah of Iran came to the United States in 1979 to be treated for cancer shortly before his death. Over the years, many Latin American dictators have found refuge in the United States, often in the Miami area.

Not all ex-dictators choose to flee. Some just stay home. With its history of repeated coups and political instability, Latin America houses a fistful of ex-dictators and former military rulers.

Jail

In Greece, ex-dictators George Papadopoulos and Brig. Dimitris Ioannidis are serving life terms in a jail in Piraeus.

Erich Honecker, who oversaw the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961 and then saw it symbolically torn down in October, is still in East Germany and the ousted Todor Zhivkov remains in Bulgaria.

Noriega's ouster in Panama leaves a rather exclusive club of old-line dictators still in power. Most prominent among them is Cuba's Fidel Castro.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1758 — French forces advance against Madras in India.

1777 — Bavaria, on death of Maximilian III, passes to Charles Theodore, elector Palatine.

1803 — Sindia of Gwalior submits to British in India.

1880 — Transvaal Boers under Stephanus Kruger declare a republic.

1886 — German-Portuguese agreement on boundaries between Angola and German South-West Africa.

1903 — More than 500 people perish in Iriquois theatre fire in Chicago, Illinois (US).

1911 — Revolutionary provisional assembly in China elects Dr Sun Yat Sen as nation's first president.

1947 — Romania's King Michael abdicates under communist pressure.

1949 — France transfers sovereignty to Vietnam.

1958 — French West African states decide to form federation within French community.

1962 — China warns that ceasefire in that nation's border conflict with India is unstable.

1964 — UN Security Council resolves to call for end to all foreign intervention in the Congo, a ceasefire there, and withdrawal of mercenaries.

1967 — Iraq says its warplanes attacked ship in Gulf off Iran as toll grows in worst month of the "tanker war."

1988 — Yugoslavia's Premier Branko Mikulic and entire cabinet resign following mounting criticism of government's handling of nation's economic crisis.

Egypt-Syrian ties seen as pragmatic

CAIRO, (Reuters): Egypt and Syria, resumed diplomatic relations on Wednesday in what political analysts saw as a pragmatic manoeuvre by both major Arab powers.

"It is a pragmatic step on everybody's part," said Egyptian political commentator Tahseen Bashir.

For Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, the joint announcement in Damascus marked the culmination of years of effort to reintegrate Egypt into the Arab mainstream.

For Syria's president Hafez Al Assad, the resumption of ties will help to counter his government's isolation, analysts said.

Widely criticised for his part in Lebanon's civil war Assad showed characteristic skill as a pragmatist by renewing ties with Washington's main Arab ally, they said.

Syria and Libya had been the only Arab states to hold out against restoring formal ties with Cairo, severed because of Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

But Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi exchanged visits starting in October and Bashir said: "Once Libya was in again, it became impossible for Syria to stay out in the cold."

Bashir, the former spokesman for Presidents Anwar Sadat and Gamal Abdel Nasser, told Reuters he also saw renewed Syrian ties as an attempt by Cairo to balance its close links with Iraq.

Egypt was a firm supporter of Iraq in its eight-year war against Iran and it has joined Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen in forming the Arab Cooperation Council with the aim of forging an economic union.

Syria and Iraq, long-time rival champions of pan-Arabism, are ruled by feuding wings of the Socialist Baath Party and Damascus backed Iran in the Gulf war.

Egypt's resumption of ties with the Arab state most staunchly opposed to compromise with Israel could also give more weight to its role as a mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"It helps ensure Syria won't sabotage the peace process at this stage and later it may provide Egypt with opportunities to reconcile Iraq with the Syrian leadership," said one diplomat.

Egypt, the only Arab state to have made peace with Israel, has close ties with both the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the United States.

But its proposal to set up direct Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo has been challenged by Damascus-based Palestinian radicals, who fear Egypt may be pressuring the PLO into making too many concessions.

The analysts said Israel might have the most reason to be concerned over the implications of Syrian-Egyptian rapport.

Of the four Arab states bordering the Jewish state, Syria and Egypt possess the most powerful forces and their "two-front" strategy in the 1973 Middle East war brought Israel to the brink of defeat.

North Korea feels no need for reforms

Hope for change is premature

SEOUL, South Korea, (AP): North Korea's swift recognition of the new Romanian government was a surprise but does not suggest reforms of its rigid communist system, Western analysts say.

"Hope for change is premature," said a Western diplomat in South Korea, speaking on condition of anonymity. "North Korea feels change in East Europe is the result of a bungled bureaucracy and since it has no bureaucracy, it feels it needs no reform and has no problem."

The North Korean government announced Wednesday it would "respect the road chosen by the Romanian people and recognize the Romanian National Salvation Front as the representative of the Romanian people."

The speed with which North Korea recognized the new government in Bucharest is considered surprising because of its close ties to the government of Nicolae Ceausescu. Analysts thought Ceausescu's fall would be difficult for North Korea to accept or explain to its citizens.

"We would have expected a period of confusion in North Korea," said the Western diplomat. He suggested North Korea felt a need to be pragmatic after China, its chief communist ally and neighbour, also quickly recognized the new Romanian leadership.

Soon after recognizing Romania, a commentary in North Korea's official Communist Party newspaper Rodong Shinmun urged fellow communist nations to heighten vigilance and pool their strength against "imperialist" efforts to undermine socialism.

Without directly mentioning the fall of the Ceausescu dictatorship, it blamed "imperialists" for what it called a "scheme to make the most of changes in political and economic life in some socialist countries."

North Korea called back its ambassadors from its communist allies for an emergency meeting, apparently because of the reforms sweeping Eastern Europe, a South Korean cabinet member said Thursday.

North Korea's ambassadors to 30 countries, including China and the Soviet Union, were apparently convened one month ahead of schedule to discuss the radical liberalization in many of its communist allies, unification minister Lee Hong-Ku said in Seoul.

Ceausescu, who was executed Monday along with his wife, was the last hard-line communist leader in the Warsaw Pact. He and North Korean leader Kim Il Sung maintained close ties, shared repressive leadership styles and referred to each other as "brother."

South Korea's media have given full coverage of the collapse of Romania's authoritarian government, and commentators have predicted that North Korea risks bloodshed like Romania if it fails to change.

"The North Korean leadership may well realize that its days are numbered," said a Korea Times editorial, adding that Romania "will hopefully serve as a grave warning to the Pyongyang leadership."

A Korea Herald editorial said: "Few expected he (Ceausescu) could be toppled so quickly and easily. The Pyongyang regime must realize that change will be the only option it will have in the very near future."

But US and South Korean observers see little possibility of a popular uprising in the North, where



President Kim Il Sung answers the cheers of the people in a parade held in Pyongyang celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

any hint of dissent is crushed and news is tightly controlled. Radio dials are locked on government stations.

A news blockade (about Romania) may be the only choice they can make," said Kim Chang-Soon, president of South Korea's government-funded North Korean Affairs Research Institute.

North Korea's hard-line government "continues to hold sway, seemingly unimpressed by the winds of change blowing across so many other communist states," South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo said in a Christmas address.

Living in isolation, North Koreans have no access to Western television, publications or merchandise and they cannot travel outside the communities in which they live without permission.

The Korean peninsula was divided in 1945, and the 155-mile (250-kms) demilitarized zone between the rival Koreas is patrolled by 1.5 million heavily armed troops.

Japan launches diplomatic drive

GIFU, Japan, (AP): The Foreign Ministry has taken on the unconventional role of diplomacy at home to convince the people of Japan they should feel closer, and even friendly, to the Third World.

It's a sensitive area in which the Japanese sometimes embarrass themselves with gaffes revealing prejudice against outsiders. Recently, Pakistanis and Koreans felt the chill of official disdain, and many foreigners face resistance if they try to move into an all-Japanese neighbourhood.

"Because of our geographic isolation, it is important for people to understand our need and obligation to contribute to the rest of the world," Taro Ishibashi, director of public relations for the Foreign Ministry, told the Associated Press during an "internationalization" tour of the provinces.

"People think, 'why should we contribute to the developing world who don't work hard and are very lazy,'" Ishibashi said. "We need to persuade them that contributing to the Third World is good for their own lives."

Two recent incidents revealed prejudices on the official level:

● National police agency officials were obliged to apologize to the Pakistan Embassy for an internal police document that claimed Pakistani suspects smell, have skin diseases and tell lies. Embassy spokesman Mohammed Sharif said the embassy accepted the apology and believed police promises that they would change the objectionable document.

● Justice Minister Masao Goto criticized Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu for brushing off complaints by Koreans living in Japan who said they were harassed following a scandal involving political donations by a group linked to communist North Korea.

Perhaps the best-known slip over ethnic issues occurred three years ago, when then-Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said average intelligence in the United States is lower than in homogeneous Japan, "because of a considerable number of blacks, Puerto Ricans and Mexicans."

Japan has small minority groups of its own, including 700,000 Koreans, many of whom are descendants of workers brought here for forced



Toshiki Kaifu

labour during World War II, when Japan ruled Korea as a colony. Hundreds of Indo-Chinese refugees and Japanese "war orphans" raised in China have resettled in Japan, as have thousands of illegal migrant workers from Asia and Latin America.

In Japan, most migrant labour is banned by law, and even legal immigrants face subtle and sometimes overt discrimination in their search for jobs, housing and acceptance as new members of the Japanese nation.

Despite government calls for "kokusaika," or internationalization, many Japanese express concern about coping with new neighbours from the Third World with different languages, foods and customs.

"Japan's still really a 'sakoku,' or closed country," says retired Katsuji Tsuchida, referring to over 200 years of national seclusion from 1639-1854 in the Tokugawa era. "Japanese people are still

prejudiced against Southeast Asians and other developing countries."

"We need to become more international," he said at a session at which officials explained Japan's foreign policy to about 1,300 people in Gifu, a city in mountainous central Japan.

The gathering gave Foreign Minister Taro Nakasone a chance to make a direct appeal for public support for "kokusaika."

The ministry has sent officials, experts and businessmen to more than 1,000 communities since April, seeking to drive its point home.

Since taking office in August, Nakasone, a veteran politician who originally trained as a medical doctor, has ordered additional public relations efforts, especially through television and cartoons, to build a public consensus in favour of a generous, internationalized Japan.

Reports of corruption and inefficiency in Japan's undermanned foreign aid programme make "people think the government is trying to steal their money and throw it into the sea of the developing world," Ishibashi said. "It's a primitive but genuine feeling."

"It's important today for the government to reach the hearts of ordinary people..." said Ishibashi, who has studied at Harvard University in the United States.

"I call it 'developing education,' education to raise understanding of the situation in the developing world and the need to increase economic assistance," he said.

The Philippine government has protested treatment of its nationals in Japan, most employed in bars, nightclubs and construction sites and often mistreated by criminal gangs. Japan also has come under strong pressure to cut its trade with the apartheid government in South Africa.

But most Third World diplomats, like the Pakistani officials, tend to play down the gaffes and discrimination and emphasize friendship with their benefactor.

Japan became the world's largest donor of non-military foreign aid in 1988, surpassing the United States, with its actual disbursement reaching \$9.13 billion, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Letters to the editor

Letter to V.P. Singh

SIR: This is an open letter sent to the Indian Prime Minister Viswanath Prithap Singh by Kuwaiti Keralite Community.

"Dear Prime Minister, our hearty congratulations on this auspicious occasion in Indian history. Indian citizens have proved that democratic power is not something obsolete. Let's wish you and the newly sworn cabinet ministers all the best. We're convinced that our country's leadership, at this most critical juncture, has reached the right hands. Naturally, in the wake of a new era, there could be initial restlessness. But we hope, you, with your broad mentality even towards the political rivals and leadership talents, would rebuild our nation and bring about solidarity, fraternity and prosperity."

"You'd agree with us that right from the time of our independence, the central government, led by the Congress Party has shown a cold attitude towards South India in many respects. Many of the rightful demands raised by South India, the paradoxical feather bed of Congress, remains ignored or unanswered till date.... A request from Kerala, to upgrade Trivandrum airport as an international airport, is an epitome of this trend. We never believe that when power is in the hand of Congress, we're going to have this done because of vested interests. However, when the history of India is being re-written, we wish that its new PM would materialise a long cherished dream of Keralites. Let's point out some of the major benefits/advantages, in the event this upgrading takes place:

"1. The numerous problems of passengers, flying especially from the Gulf countries to Kerala, who mainly depend only on our national carrier, can be resolved substantially. Difficulties in getting seats during the peak seasons, unfair charges in the Gulf-Trivandrum sector, sudden change in flight schedules.... thus prolongs the list of prevailing problems.

"2. Kerala is described as a land blessed with natural beauty and resources which should bring crores of rupees by way of tourism. But, if a survey is taken on the tourists who visit Kerala, it'll show that their number is far less than what it should be. In other words, we're unable to make use of our resources to their full extent due to various reasons. However, if international carriers are allowed to have direct access to Kerala, it'd be a remarkable step in changing this situation. The result would be more tourist and more national income.

"3. A healthy competition will make Air India improve their services in the Gulf-Trivandrum sector. And eventually, make Keralites go for their national carrier. After all, we're very much Indians and we don't wish to see our nation's organisations suffer. But it looks that AI has taken its services to South India, for granted. Once the monopoly is broken, it'll pave the way for self improvement of AI itself. Besides, it may be noted that AI is profitably operating in India's other international airports. As such, the proposed Trivandrum international airport doesn't pose a threat on AI in terms of loss either.

"We must not overlook the value of this consideration. And we look forward to the day when Trivandrum will be having its place in the world's international airports.

"Wishing you all success, and thanking you once again for your time, we remain,

For Kuwaiti Keralite Community
R.R. Panicker,
Kuwait."

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"China is a socialist country and naturally we cannot but be concerned over the developments in other socialist countries. But the Chinese people respect the historic choices made by the people of other countries and will never interfere in the affairs of other countries. We also oppose other countries interfering in our internal affairs." — China to the Soviet Union.

"Everyone says 'You can do well on it' but nobody told me how until now. I was originally thinking of going to watch the World Cup soccer in Italy until he talked to me. I cannot do any worse than I have there in the past." — Yannis Nosh confirming he'll play at Wimbledon in 1989.

"The people who are at the head of the provisional government are true communists who collaborated with Ceausescu. Everybody there knows it. The Romanians did not fight to be ruled once again by the same people. They did not want to continue with the same order." — Ex-king Michael of Romania.

"I do not like revenge, but this execution was understandable." — Ex-king Michael of Romania on Ceausescu's execution.

"As a fellow clergyman, Archbishop Tutu should appreciate that all spiritual leaders should be doing their very best in every situation — whether in South Africa or the Middle East — to encourage moderates to come together for meaningful negotiations towards satisfactory solutions." — A South African rabbi criticising Tutu for remarks he made in the occupied territories.

"Grave economic disparities still prevail and destitution is still the lot of the majority of the human race. Human rights are still not accorded the respect due to them in all parts of the world and the natural environment is still faced with the threat of irreparable damage." — De Cuellar in a New Year message.

"We want to die together, we do not want mercy." — Lupul quoted Elena Ceausescu as saying before she was led out with her husband to be shot.

"Guys are coming up much faster but I think you'll find they'll burn out much faster too. With the extra emphasis put on physical condition, people are going to find it difficult to last beyond 30 years old as they have in the past — I mean (Jimmy) Connors is the last true dinosaur of tennis. To be as good as he is at that stage is incredible." — John McEnroe.

"Young kids are coming up very quickly. Who would have thought that (Michael) Chang in a million years would have won the French Open? And look at (Steffi) Graf. Five years ago no-one had heard of her and now she's being called the greatest player of all time." — John McEnroe on youth invasion of tennis.

"If you look what's happening in the world right now, there's probably no pressure at all involved in playing tennis. Being a sportsman is the greatest job in the world. I can't think of anything I'd rather do." — John McEnroe.

كواليتي

Khamenei warning ends bickering

NICOSIA, Dec 29, (AP): Several radical Iranian groups opposed to the pragmatic cabinet of President Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday agreed to keep their bickering under wraps following a stern warning by the country's spiritual leader, Tehran radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said that the radical Society of Combatant Theologians, the Islamic Propagation Society and another group of theologians who in recent weeks had been openly attacking Rafsanjani's government agreed that such bickering "played into the hands of the enemy."

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, said in a speech Wednesday that infighting "not in the interests of the Islamic Republic."

The power struggle between the country's so-called radical and pragmatic leaders surfaced last week when Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati's office was subject to a broad attack believed orchestrated by the radicals.

Velayati's ministry was lambasted for arranging the visit to Tehran earlier this month for the late Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu at a time when his people were rising against him.

The uprising against Ceausescu began a few hours before he left for Tehran Dec 18. Editorials in the Iranian papers after Ceausescu's execution accused the Foreign Ministry of having committed a grave error, and used it to discredit Velayati.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, also monitored in Nicosia, said the issue of Ceausescu's visit was "snowballing as the biggest goof of the Iranian Foreign Ministry."

The radical-dominated Majlis, or parliament, summoned Velayati to explain Ceausescu's visit.

The Majlis foreign relations committee, after meeting with Velayati, said his answer to their questions "were not satisfactory enough."

Khamenei stepped in amid this heated bickering to diffuse the situation, affirming his confidence in Velayati.

He warned "uninformed leaders who have access to the media" not to abuse this privilege.

The radical combatant theologian's society issued a statement yesterday supporting Khamenei's remarks and adding that such acts were a "great unforgivable sin."

MIDEAST BRIEFS



Shooting; 2 die

An unidentified man stands near the body of Italian Vincenzo Di Scala, 47, lying inside the Turkish consulate after he was shot dead by Turkish Ahmet Gulduoglu, the bodyguard of the Turkish consul in Naples. After killing Di Scala Gulduoglu shot himself dead.

The shooting occurred as the two men returned from drinking coffee in a nearby bar, Naples police chief Antonio Barri said.

He ruled out terrorism and said the shooting apparently had some kind of personal motive.

Witnesses said bodyguard Gulduoglu, 50, fired a burst of shots into Vincenzo Di Scala, 47, on the stairs of the consulate, then ran back into the entrance hall where he shot himself twice in the chest (Reuters wirephoto).

Andreotti in Aden

NICOSIA, Dec 29, (Reuters): Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived in Aden today for a two-day visit to Marxist-ruled South Yemen, the Qatari News Agency (QNA) said.

Andreotti flew from Sanaa after two days in North Yemen where he secured the release of three Italian soldiers held since March as surety for debt owed by their construction company to local employees, Italian Foreign Ministry officials said.

The visit to North and South Yemen which plan to merge is primarily aimed at increasing economic co-operation and trade.

Prayer for rain

AMMAN, Dec 29, (Reuters): Jordanians prayed to Allah today to end weeks of unseasonal sunshine which has led to severe water shortages in the arid country.

"Oh God, please send us rain... do not make us desperate," Muslims recited during noon prayers in response to a special request by the Religious Affairs Ministry.

Constitution poll

MOGADISHU, Dec 29, (Reuters): Somalia may hold a referendum to approve constitutional amendments paving the way for a return to multi-party democracy by the end of 1990, an official charged with drafting the amendments said yesterday.

Ahmed Ashkir Botan, chairman of the technical committee drafting the amendments, told reporters that initially the constitution could be changed by a two-thirds majority of Somalia's present one-party parliament.

Iran to protest

NICOSIA, Dec 29, (AP): Iran will lodge a complaint with "concerned international circles" against the British government for the arrest and interrogation of four Iranian students in Britain, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

Mohsen Mousavian, the ministry's director-general for Western Europe, did not spell out the circles to which the protest will be addressed.

Visit to Sanaa

SANAA, Dec 29, (AP): French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement discussed Middle East issues and bilateral relations yesterday with Prime Minister Abdul-Aziz Abdul-Ghani, officials reported.

Chevènement arrived in the North Yemen capital on Tuesday on a four-day visit which has been described as private, according to the national news agency.

Libyan envoy

DAMASCUS, Dec 29, (AP): Syrian President Hafez Assad met with Libya's defence minister yesterday, a day after patching up a 12-year rift with Egypt.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency said Col Abu Bakr Yunis, the secretary-general of Libya's Popular Defence Committee, delivered a letter to Assad from Libyan leader Col Muammar Khadafi.

Body explodes

NAIROBI, Dec 29, (AP): The body of one of four people killed when a relief flight was shot down in southern Sudan exploded at the airport in Khartoum just prior to being put aboard a plane bound for Paris, sources said today.

The sources said medical personnel at the scene did not believe that yesterday's explosion was caused by a buildup of natural gases and feared the body had been booby-trapped to go off in flight.

Palestinian revolt costs Israel \$1b

Deficit may force army to trim

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 29, (UPI): One of Israel's leading banks has estimated that coping with the Palestinian uprising has cost the country about \$1 billion, including military needs and impact on the economy, bank officials said yesterday.

In a survey published by Bank Hapoalim, economists said that boycotts against Israeli products by Palestinians in the occupied territories together with a slowdown in tourism and costs incurred by the army have cost the nation about 1 per cent of its output of goods and services.

One bank official said the percentage of the gross national product given to the uprising was significant, but "not a dramatic influence."

The figure for the second year of the 2-year-old uprising was slightly less than for the first, which cost \$600 million. The survey said the impact in the second year was not as great because the economy has begun to adjust to the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Companies had adjusted in the last year as well, the survey said, by looking to alternative markets to offset boycotts.

Israel will have to trim its army because of a \$480 million deficit stemming from the uprising, a senior military source said today.

The two-year-old revolt in the occupied territories has cost the army more than \$730 million, in 1989 terms, while the Finance Ministry has provided just \$250 million in extra defence funds, the source said.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Army acknowledged today that soldiers accidentally shot two 12-year-old Palestinians, one in the chest and the other in the stomach, in an assault on masked Arabs a day earlier in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Both boys were reported in good condition at Gaza City's Shifa hospital today. Arab reports said they were on their way to the local wholesale market on a donkey cart in pre-dawn darkness when they were shot.

Also today, a Palestinian suspected of collaborating with Israel was backed to death by masked Arabs in Gaza's Khan Yunis refugee camp, Arab reports said.

The slaying of Ahmad Mohammed Abu Shahme, 56, came a day after PLO leader Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction called for restraining slayings of alleged collaborators in a leaflet distributed in the West Bank city of Nablus.

Today, the house of a 41-year-old Palestinian arrested on suspicion of killing suspected collaborators was demolished by the army. The four-room house of suspect Hamdi Sheikh Khalil in Gaza City was home to seven people, Arab reports said.

Meanwhile, one Palestinian was wounded and another hospitalized with shock after a hand-grenade was thrown into a restaurant early today in the town of Petah Tikva near Tel Aviv, police said.

Police said one man was taken into custody in the incident, adding they suspected "criminal motives" in the case. The Iltim national news agency said the man arrested was wearing the skull cap of an observant Jew.

Tension in Petah Tikva involving Arab day labourers led the town earlier this year to set up a "holding area" to segregate Palestinians waiting for rides to and from the occupied territories.

The army ordered an investigation into yesterday's shooting of four Palestinians after Arab reports said the troops opened fire on Palestinian youths as they drove their donkey cart to market in early morning darkness.



An unidentified 18-year-old Palestinian receives emergency room treatment in a Jerusalem hospital after he was shot in the head during a clash with Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israeli police attack women peace rally

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 29, (AP): A peace march by about 3,000 European, Israeli and Palestinian women ended today in a confrontation with police after an outlawed Palestinian flag was raised in protest.

Police said 16 women were detained, most of them Palestinians. Police sprayed the area with tear gas, and reporters saw women dragged to police wagons, struck with night sticks and kicked.

One woman shouted "Peace, peace, peace" as she was dragged from the scene by her hair.

Among those detained was Dacia Valent, an Italian citizen who is a member of the European parliament. She was taken into custody after protesting the arrests to police.

The women's peace march, which wound through city streets from Jewish West Jerusalem to Arab East Jerusalem, was one of several major events planned to precede Saturday's "human chain" around the old, walled city.

Soldiers today set up checkpoints on roads from the West Bank, increasing rally organisers' fears the army intended to block Palestinians from joining with Israelis and the 1,200 Europeans in the "human chain."

Army spokesmen said the checkpoints were not intended to close off the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, they have refused comment on Israeli news reports they will do so Saturday.

Threat of a closure was the latest in a series of steps Israeli authorities have taken to limit the mass peace rally, including denial of visas to some of the European activists, barring visits to Palestinian refugee camps and blocking tour buses from West Bank cities.

Saturday's march was to culminate in a meeting at the Hakawati theatre in East Jerusalem.

The army, in a statement issued today, said soldiers detected four masked Arab youths in Gaza City and "fired according to regulations." It added: "Apparently children were near the group of masked people and therefore injured by gunfire."

One masked youth also was wounded.

Palestinian reporters yesterday quoted one of the wounded Palestinians as saying none of the victims wore masks but one ran away in fear when soldiers approached.

N. Korea approached

Syria seeks missiles

TEL AVIV, Dec 29, (AP): Syria is believed to be seeking North Korea's help in acquiring new surface-to-surface missiles after US pressure was brought to bear China to cancel a reported deal, Israeli military sources said today.

The sources also said North Korea and Egypt have begun a project to develop missiles patterned after Soviet-designed Scud missiles.

The revelation by the sources, who briefed a reporter on condition of anonymity, comes at a time of mounting concern in Israel about an intensified missile race in the Middle East.

Fears intensified following Iraq's Dec 7 launching of the Abed, a 48-ton, three-stage ballistic missile that Baghdad claimed was capable of putting satellites into space.

North Korea has a well-developed arms industry, and the Israeli sources said it had supplied Iran with Soviet-designed Scud surface-to-surface missiles during the Gulf war with Iraq.

The military sources said part of the Egyptian-North Korean missile project was being developed in Egypt.

Aharon Levran, a retired brigadier general who is a leading independent military analyst, said Egypt had an arsenal of ageing Scud missiles provided by the Soviet Union and had apparently turned to North Korea last year for help in modernising them.

"It's not known exactly what sort of help the North Koreans can provide, whether it is just to renew the old Soviet missiles and provide spare parts or maybe install improved components such as guidance," he said.

French fugitive caught in Tunis

TUNIS, Dec 29, (Reuters): Tunisian police have captured convicted French criminal Bouazza Ladi, who escaped from Lan-nemeczan prison in southwest France with eight inmates on December 6, the government newspaper La Presse reported today.

Ladi arrived in Tunis by air last Saturday on a false French passport in the name of Marc Andre Leonetti and was arrested at a Tunis hotel on Wednesday evening, it said.

The fugitive, 32, was serving a 16-year prison sentence in Lan-nemeczan for armed robbery and attempted murder.

La Presse said he had just finished a game of tennis and was reading an account of his escape from the prison in the French magazine Paris-Match at the time of his arrest.

Egypt, Syria ties hailed

AMMAN, Dec 29, (Reuters): Arab states yesterday welcomed the rapprochement between Egypt and Syria. Israel reacted cautiously saying Damascus was no closer to peace with the Jewish state.

Cairo and Damascus announced resumption of formal diplomatic ties on Wednesday, healing a split which began when Syria broke ties in 1977 after Egypt contacted Israel in the run-up to their 1979 peace treaty.

Jordan hailed it as a positive step. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the move. Turkey expressed its pleasure. Gulf newspapers described it as an historic leap forward on the road to Arab unity.

But Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted as saying the rapprochement could be dangerous for Israel but could also reduce Syrian hostility towards the Jewish state.

"Despite the rapprochement we don't see a change in the Syrian position," Rabin told south Lebanon's Israeli-backed radio Voice of the South.

In Amman, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Jordan was "totally satisfied with the move which it sees as an important and positive development towards building Arab solidarity for the benefit of the Arab nation in defending its interests."

Jordan's Arabic-language daily Al Ra'i said: "Cairo and Damascus are pillars of Arab solidarity and therefore we welcome whatever is made to mend fences to allow Arabs to face the threats surrounding them."

"We received the news with extreme joy," the official UAE news agency WAM quoted Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zaid Al Nahayan as saying.

"Turkey, which attributes great importance to unity and integrity of the Arab world, is pleased at the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria," Turkish Foreign Ministry officials said.

Bahrain's daily Akhbar Al Khaleej said it was "an important and historic move and a step forward towards Arab unity."

In Qatar, the English-language Gulf Times said: "The resumption of diplomatic ties will contribute towards ending the Lebanese problem."

"Great hopes hang on the move because the development in the Arab-Israeli dispute needs national unity," the Qatari daily Al Arab said.

In Israel, senior aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Yossi Ahmeir, said of the Damascus-Cairo accord: "In this agreement, one can't see any change in the Syrian attitude towards Israel as a whole or towards peace with Israel in particular. Syria didn't come closer to Egypt's position."

Libya remains the only Arab state which has not restored full diplomatic ties with Egypt.

Assad, facing economic crisis at home, a quagmire in Lebanon, tensions with Iraq and a cooler relationship with his Soviet military backers, renewed ties with Cairo to improve Syria's international standing.



Iran's first Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Besharat (left) and Iranian Ambassador to Syria Sheikh Hassan Akhtery (right). Besharat announced a ceasefire between two rival Shiite militias during a news conference at the Iranian embassy in Muslim West Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

Amal-Hezbollah clashes rage

Iran-brokered truce fails

BEIRUT, Dec 29, (Agencies): Shiite Muslim militias allied with Syria and Iran fought artillery and rocket battles today in South Lebanon, killing five people and wounding 16, police said.

That topped the casualty toll to 52 people killed and 205 wounded since fighting erupted Saturday in the tiny township of Iqlim Al-Tuffah between the pro-Iranian fundamentalist Hezbollah, or Party of God, and the Syrian-backed secular Amal militia.

An Iranian-brokered truce failed to take hold because Amal demanded a Hezbollah withdrawal to their original lines before the current confrontation broke out while Hezbollah insisted on a ceasefire in place followed by a dialogue with Amal over a formula for durable co-existence.

Hezbollah seized four villages in the early stages of the fighting and was later driven out from two of them. Amal insists on regaining the remaining two villages.

"There shall be no withdrawals before a dialogue," said Sheikh Sobhi Tufaili, a high-ranking Hezbollah official.

"Amal must stop the war and sit on the negotiating table in order to resolve the conflict," Tufaili told a news conference today at Hezbollah base in the Bar Al Abed slum of predominantly south Beirut.

"I had hoped to read to you today an agreement to end the fighting between Amal and us. But I regret to say such an accord has not been accomplished yet," Tufaili said.

"Amal should stop the war and declare a ceasefire and sit down (for talks) to solve all the problems."

"If it doesn't do that, Amal will be responsible for the displacement of people, the killing of children and the destruction of homes," Tufaili said.

He said Hezbollah would not withdraw from its newly-captured positions before a ceasefire was in place and talks with Amal

had begun.

Amal chieftain Nabih Berri said yesterday his militia was determined to evict Hezbollah from the two captured villages.

Berri visited the area and told his fighters the battle would continue "even if 300 more men have to die."

"Today it all depends on your steadfastness in Kfar Hitti. You are asked to defend it until the last drop of your blood," said Berri, brandishing a machine-gun.

"The ceasefire cannot hold, until they (Hezbollah) withdraw from all areas they captured. Only then the movement will abide by the ceasefire," said Berri.

But a fundamentalist source said Hezbollah would not pull out before direct talks began between both groups.

Hezbollah, dedicated to fighting the Jewish state until the end, is seeking a foothold in the south to wage attacks against Israel and its border buffer zone.



Lebanese policemen patrol the once fashionable Hamra street in Beirut, where street vendors are now selling decorations, toys and hats for New Year's eve occasion. (Reuters wirephoto)

Egypt rejects US criticism of Iraq

DOHA, Dec 29, (AP): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in an interview published yesterday criticised Washington for expressing concern over Iraq's developing missile industry without mentioning Israel's capabilities.

"If we speak of nuclear weapons, what we say should apply to all. If we are speaking of missiles, it should also apply to all, Iraq as well as Israel," Mubarak said in an interview published in both Qatari newspapers Al Raya and Al Sharq.

Iraq announced earlier this month that it had launched a three stage rocket capable of putting satellite in space, and test-fired two long-range surface-to-surface missiles.

Washington has expressed concern over the development, although Israel already has launched a satellite, Ofek-1, into space, and is known to possess better-developed missiles.

The interview was published on the eve of a visit to Cairo by the Qatari Amir, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, in early January. Egypt is a member of the Arab Co-operation Council which also groups Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen.

Mubarak said he would meet with Syrian President Hafez Assad soon, but did not specify a date. Cairo-Damascus relations were resumed on Wednesday after a 12-year rift that followed the beginning of Egypt's peace process with Israel.

Asked if he would use Egypt's weight to mediate between Syria and Iraq, the Arab world's main rivals, he said: "We always try to clear Arab climate and secure reconciliation. We do not like to see two Arab countries in a state of conflict."

King Hussein of Jordan, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and several Arab officials have tried without success to end the feud between Iraq and Syria.

Turkey lifts ban on headscarves

ANKARA, Dec 29, (Reuters): Turkey has lifted all legislation banning Islamic-style headscarves at universities, leaving the institutions to decide for themselves on the issue, a senior education official said.

"We have lifted a specific disciplinary clause in university regulations which banned the wearing of non-modern garb," Hasan Dogramaci, head of the Higher Education Board, told reporters.

The ban, imposed in 1985, sparked protests by radical Muslims and women students. The scarves were regarded as a symbol of Islamic fundamentalism in mainly-Muslim but secular Turkey.

"There will no longer be a centralised ruling on any kind of garb in universities. They will take their own decision on such matters," Dogramaci said.

A blanket parliamentary bill allowing scarves on campus was annulled by the constitutional court in March after the then President Kenan Evren appealed on the grounds the bill was anti-secular. The court ruling led to further fundamentalist protests.

Jordan police break up anti-US protest

AMMAN, Dec 29, (Reuters): Jordanian riot police used tear-gas to disperse about 400 demonstrators marching to the US embassy to protest at American support for Israel.

They said police stopped the march in Amman last night. The Interior Ministry said police had intervened after demonstrators stoned police and civilian vehicles.

A ministry statement said there were no casualties or damage apart from broken windows. It warned that legal measures would be taken against anyone disturbing the peace.

The protesters, mostly youths, shouted slogans against Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, US Secretary of State James Baker and some Arab leaders, the witnesses

said. Mubarak and Baker are trying to arrange Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo to discuss a plan put forward by Shamir for Palestinian elections in the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The marchers yesterday split from a group of about 3,000 people who were attending a concert by the Palestinian group Firat Baladna (Band of our homeland).

Earlier this month, several street marches took place to mark the second anniversary of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. About half Jordan's population is of Palestinian origin.

It was the second time this month that Palestinian demonstrators had tried to reach

the US embassy. "We have always told them they were free to march in the streets and shout slogans as long as they do not attack embassies," a senior police officer told Reuters.

The government this week swept away most of the provisions of martial law imposed for 22 years, including those banning large public gatherings.

But organisers of such gatherings are still obliged to inform the Interior Ministry before hand.

Jordan's new Parliament will test the strength of Prime Minister Mudar Badran tomorrow when it debates whether his government deserves a vote of confidence.

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US soldiers register weapons which hundreds of Panamanians were surrendering in Panama City. The US is offering a \$150 reward for weapons.



Two of the Noriega's yachts sit at a dockside at Rodman naval station at the entrance to the Panama Canal.

Probe into empire

Trial of cash and weapons

PANAMA CITY, Dec 29, (Reuters): As the standoff over deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega's fate dragged into its fifth day today, US officials probing his empire say they are stunned by the large amounts of cash and guns they have found.

"This place was the rest and recreation centre for terrorists from all over the world," said one US official.

Noriega remained holed up in the Vatican embassy, caught in a diplomatic impasse between Washington and Rome over whether he will stand trial in the United States, go to a third country or remain in Panama.

Outside, heavily-armed US troops stood guard to ensure that the key target of the invasion did not slip through their grasp.

A senior US embassy official said yesterday that large caches of guns and money had been found all over the country since the December 20 invasion and that money-laundering flourished up until the troops started fighting.

The United States wants Noriega to stand trial on drug trafficking and other charges, and officials have accused him of turning the country into a vast private enterprise for himself and his associates.

"Many of these people, when we arrested them, had hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash," he said.

As one example, he said, Panama's former finance minister, Orville Gooden, was picked up this week carrying a briefcase containing \$3 million.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the new government of Guillermo Endara was looking to seize the illegally gained assets to help rebuild Panama's economy, which has been hurt by US economic sanctions before the invasion and by the massive looting which followed.

"There is a lot of money running around and they are hoping to seize that and finance a lot of development that Panama didn't have during the days of Noriega," he said.

US military officials have shown reporters vast arms caches in various locations around the country containing thousands of weapons, some from North Korea, East Germany and Cuba.

The official said some 75,000 weapons have been either seized or bought from Panamanian soldiers and others. He said the figure will probably reach 100,000.

In the first days after the invasion, the US military was paying \$100 for each pistol, about \$150 for an automatic rifle, and several thousand dollars for an arms cache. The response was so overwhelming the programme bogged down in paperwork and was suspended.

"This place was just full of guns," the official said.

The task force — made up of US officials from the State Department, Treasury and the National Security Council and Panamanian businessmen and diplomats — estimated that the total cost of the US invasion to the Panamanian economy, in terms of destroyed property, looting and lost jobs, was \$600 million.

Former US secretary of state William Rogers, a Washington attorney with the firm of Arnold and Porter who is acting as representative for the government of Panama, said, "The total impact on the Panamanian economy, which was already suffering from the distortions of Gen. (Manuel) Noriega's rule, was disastrous. The physical destruction and the pillaging

dramatically increased the unemployment rate, which was 25 per cent before the American intervention."

"There has to be an international effort," Rogers said, "and clearly that must be led by the United States."

The task force report places primary emphasis on the private sector to get the Panamanian economy moving, with a recommendation that early emphasis be given to reinvigorating the Panamanian banking system.

The banks have been decimated by US economic sanctions, which have now been lifted. The assets released by the United States will total as much as \$500 million, but the Panamanian banks are holding some \$1.5 billion in deposits, which are subject to withdrawal by hard-pressed businessmen and private investors.

Officials said that recovering the deposits stashed in foreign banks by Noriega, now in refuge in the Vatican embassy in Panama, may help "a bit" in easing the economic crisis, but officials said the real problem is one of years of economic paralysis under Noriega, compounded by the physical destruction and trauma of an invasion that permitted looters to bring the economy to a halt.

PANAMA CITY, Dec 29, (Reuters): The story of Manuel Noriega's last days on the run is a bizarre tale of daring eleventh-hour escapes, red underpants, love triangles, witchcraft and betrayal.

Accounts provided by US military intelligence sources, close associates and church leaders portray the toppled Panamanian strongman after the Dec 20 US invasion as an isolated, scared and superstitious fugitive.

He nonetheless was shrewd and calculating right down to his very last minute of freedom before seeking refuge in the Vatican embassy on Christmas Eve.

The Washington Times newspaper said he got warning of the invasion 48 hours in advance from someone telephoning from the US State Department in Washington. The Pentagon denied it.

According to the US military, the story began the day before the US invasion with Noriega visiting a new military base in Panama's second city Colon.

He was supposedly aware of increased US Air Force activity but dismissed the

idea of an American intervention.

Unconcerned by the reports, he returned to Panama City that evening and was with a prostitute when at 1 am on Dec 20, crack US troops attacked a nearby airstrip.

But the canny general slipped through the Americans' fingers, the first of many times he was to do so.

A US southern command press release said Noriega left the airport in his car and evaded the embattled US forces by driving around the city in circles.

Southern command said one of Noriega's first actions was not to call his wife but rather his mistress Vicky Amado and her family. It was his contact with Amado that would later force him to surrender to the Vatican's embassy in the capital.

After giving the Americans the slip, Noriega moved from safe house to safe house with a group of bodyguards, always two steps ahead of his pursuers.

Despite having a million-dollar price tag on his head, Noriega managed to

avoid 26,000 US troops for almost five days.

Former Panamanian officers now in US custody told their captors that Noriega's cohorts tried to convince him to leave the capital and head to the hills to lead the fight against the Americans. But he refused because he feared his heart could not take the strain of life as a guerrilla commander.

They said the general was never in command of his troops and spent all his time worried about his own skin.

As time wore on and the US Army extended its control over the city, Noriega's luck started to run out.

Luck was important to Noriega. A firm believer in the powers of witchcraft and voodoo, he even wore red underwear to ward off the evil eye, American officials said.

According to one senior Panamanian officer, in the weeks leading up to the US invasion, Noriega hired one of Brazil's most feared witchdoctors to protect him

from harm.

But during his attempts to avoid capture, he apparently abandoned his voodoo paraphernalia which he thought would ward off evil.

With his talismans gone, Noriega's friends began to desert him.

Families which had grown rich under Noriega's corrupt government, grew weary of hiding him and according to some former friends they refused to give him shelter when he showed up at their doorstep.

On Sunday morning, Dec 24, a call came in to US officials telling them that Noriega was hiding in a luxurious villa belonging to Amado's mother.

The tip, some US military sources said, came from Amado's teenage daughter.

The general, however, still had some tricks up his sleeve and he escaped from the house in a small helicopter an hour before US commandos arrived.

He managed to tell his host before leaving that he was tired of running and would turn himself in.

His problems though were far from over. US forces surrounded the Cuban and Nicaraguan embassies which were friendly to him. Noriega had to keep his head and at the last minute he played what was his final card. He headed for the Vatican embassy. It was Christmas Eve.

Panamanian Archbishop Marco Antonio McGrath said Noriega called the Pope's representative and within an hour he pulled up in a private car with blacked out windows and slipped inside.

Some unconfirmed reports said Noriega made the final phone call from a Dairy Queen ice cream stand in one of Panama City's busiest streets.

Even US Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney admitted that Noriega was amazingly skilful in the way he evaded US troops.

"He is a very stubborn man and he held out much longer than any person ever though possible in view of the difficult circumstances he faced," Archbishop McGrath said.

Bids to lift up economy

Japan aid urged

WASHINGTON, Dec 29, (AP): The US effort to recruit aid for Panama's damaged economy is targeting Japan, which has a strong vested interest in the Panama Canal, a Japanese embassy official says.

The request, which went out in recent days, is part of a government-wide mobilisation to help Panama rebuild an economy shattered by two years of US sanctions against deposed military ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega and by last week's invasion by US troops.

In talks both before and after the invasion, the United States urged Japan to help Panama regain the economic standing it enjoyed before Noriega's 1988 indictments in the United States on drug trafficking charges. The indictments shook investors' confidence in Panama.

Japan ships many of its exports to the United States through the Panama Canal and has provided more than \$5 million in annual technical aid to support the government's stability.

"The US expects Japan to play a significant role," said a Japanese embassy official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Japan stopped its aid to Panama six months ago but expects to resume and increase the assistance once it recognises the new Panamanian government installed with US support last week, said the official.

Yesterday, a US State Department team arrived in Panama to assess the country's immediate needs in providing shelter, food and medicine to thousands of Panamanians left homeless by the invasion Dec 20 to remove Noriega from power.

The team, led by the head of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Andrew Natsios, will remain in Panama until Monday.

An estimated 570 people were killed in five days of fighting against Noriega loyalists, officials report.

Alfredo Maduro, president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that insurance brokers estimate losses from looting or other damage to

businesses in the capital at \$750 million to \$1 billion.

Maduro said businessmen planned to ask the United States for "something like a Marshall plan for Panama" to rebuild.

To address the country's longer term needs, a task force has been formed with representatives from the US Treasury, State and Commerce Departments. The group has held talks since Tuesday with a three-man Panamanian delegation and will head for Panama next week to examine the situation.

The focus of the Panamanian-American meeting is the transfer of some \$400 million in Panamanian government money frozen last year in the United States.

President George Bush last week ordered the funds released, but the process is expected to take several weeks, administration officials said.

The United States already has transferred \$5.82 million confiscated from Noriega to the new government headed by Guillermo Endara, a US military spokesman in Panama City said yesterday.

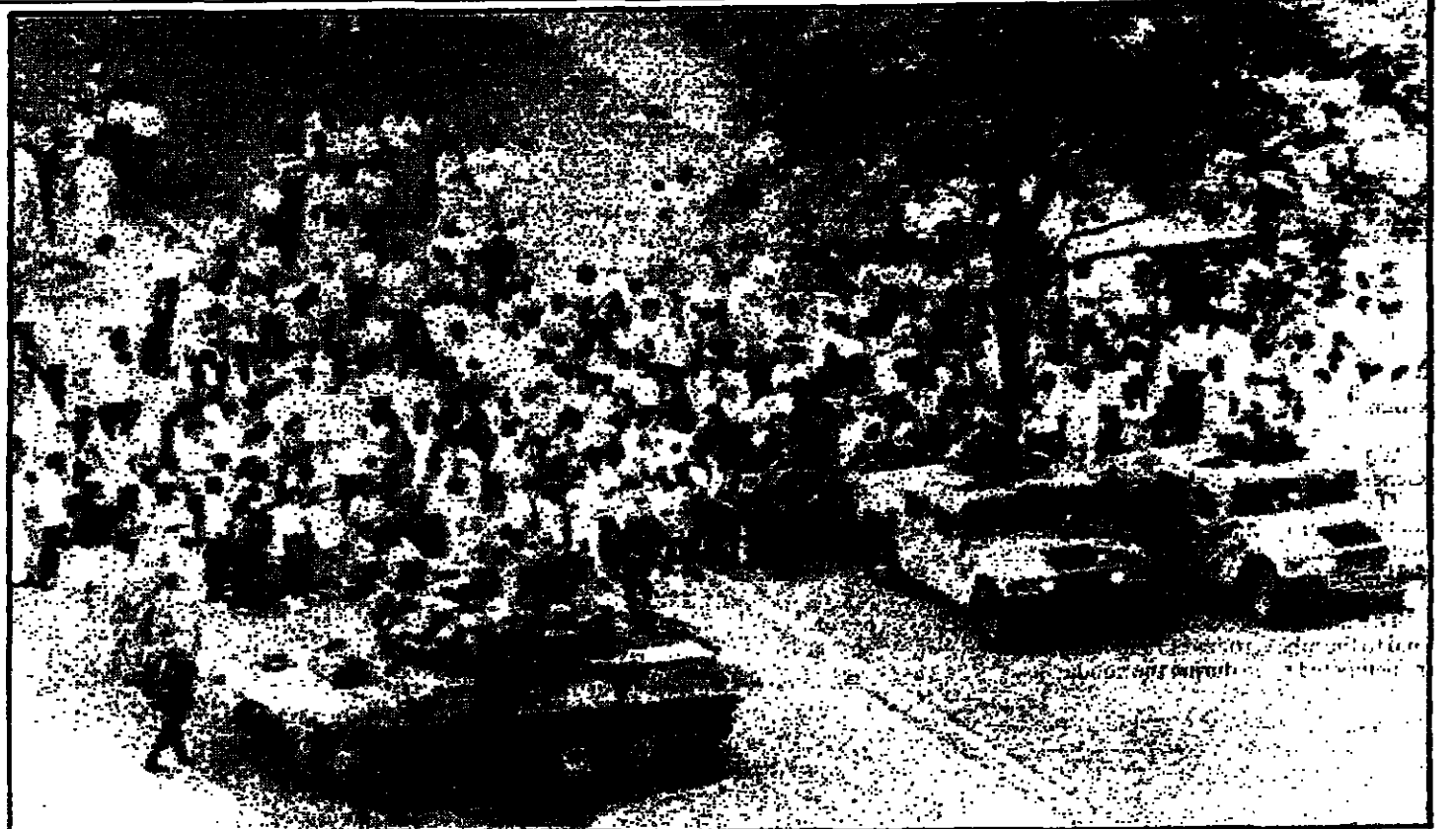
The Bush administration has not yet asked Congress for money for Panama's rehabilitation assets to start the process.

Panama, once a thriving banking centre with a per capita income double that of its neighbours, has seen its economy shrink to an estimated annual rate of 10 per cent to 15 per cent since 1987, according to economic analysts.

Economic sanctions by the United States and a loss of confidence in Noriega led US firms, including large-scale employers like Xerox and IBM, to scale down their businesses in Panama. Unemployment has risen to more than 20 per cent.

In addition, Panama owes at least \$5.6 billion to foreign banks, governments and international lending agencies such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The World Bank is not expected to resume any lending to Panama unless the country repays some \$180 million in arrears on past loans, bank officials said.



Panamanians demonstrating in favour of the Vatican handing over ousted General Manuel Noriega to the United States are held back by US troops guarding one of the entrances to the Papal embassy in Panama City. (Reuters wirephoto)

Media braces for freedom

New govt pledge to strike off all curbs

PANAMA CITY, Dec 29, (AP): Panamanian media shattered by the regime of Manuel Antonio Noriega are rushing to resume their operations just days after the general's overthrow by US forces.

Even media that loyally followed a pro-government line under Noriega are celebrating the installation of the civilian government of President Guillermo Endara.

Noriega closed three opposition newspapers, three radio stations and a television channel in 1988, shortly after the United States began demanding the general's ouster. He expropriated another TV station this year.

In some cases, broadcast or publishing licences were revoked, equipment confiscated and offending reporters hounded into exile.

The new government this week announced that all news media shut down by its predecessor can resume operations without any restrictions.

"The government's basic line is to grant an opening for all communications media, without regard to ownership, and freedom of expression without any type of censorship," said Edwin Cabrera, director of the government's communications office.

Cabrera announced a bonus New Year's gift for Panama's press: the government was dismissing all court proceedings against journalists accused of violating censorship or security regulations under Noriega.

Only ten days ago, a newspaper reader could scan such headlines as, "Our country will not kneel before anyone, much less the United States," or, "Gringo soldiers shoot one-year-old girl."

This week, an editorial broadcast by radio station KW Continental, closed under Noriega, declared, "The beast must not escape" — a reference to Noriega, who since Sunday has taken refuge inside the Vatican

embassy.

The newspaper La Prensa, whose offices were ransacked almost two years ago by pro-Noriega thugs, announced it planned to hit the streets within two weeks. Editors estimated damages to La Prensa's facilities during the raid at \$2 million.

Journalists at news outlets that supported Noriega said the change of government will allow them to practice their profession without catering to the political dictates of their owners.

"We're happy," said an employee of Radio Nacional, who refused to identify himself

for fear of reprisal. Radio Nacional had continued pro-Noriega broadcasts up to the moment its transmitters were destroyed by American troops last week.

The newspapers Critica, Matutino and La Republica all published anti-American appeals the day before the US invasion.

Now, with the newspapers' holding company, Editora El Panama America, returned to its original owner, the prominent Arias family, employees say the days of promoting the government are over.

Amnesty deplores quick executions

(Continued from Page 1)

United States still hopes to get its hands on Noriega.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said discussions with Vatican officials "continue in a positive vein" and that the church "is playing a very serious and constructive role."

"I think the Vatican's doing a fine job," he added.

Fitzwater in Texas for President George Bush's six-day holiday, repeatedly refused to pick a fight with the Vatican.

Bush has said he is determined to bring Noriega to the US for trial on drug trafficking charges. But the White House has admitted Noriega's fate is in the church's hands.

US forces held six top associates of Noriega, sources said today.

No overnight shooting was reported for the first time since the Dec 20 US military invasion.

Life in Panama appeared to be returning to normal nine days after the US attack.

The government of President Guillermo Endara opened banks and paid public employees yesterday with \$5.8 million confiscated from Noriega loyalists. It also lifted all restrictions on the news media imposed by the Noriega government.

US Army Lt Col. Jerry Murgu, a US military spokesman, said today that Noriega's chief economic adviser and his personal physician were detained within the past 24 hours.

US troops also detained Mike Harari, a former Israeli intelligence agent and top

security adviser to Noriega, a US embassy official said on condition of not being identified.

Lt. Col. Roberto Cedeno, chief of Noriega's state security intelligence, also was detained.

Two other top Noriega aides — Lt. Col. Carlos Velarde and Lt. Col. Arnulfo Castrejón — left the Vatican embassy and were taken into custody by US troops, Murguía said previously.

Two Americans in Panama were kidnapped and killed with single shots to the back of the head and their bodies were unearthed today near the Vatican embassy where Noriega is holed up, US radio and television reports said.

They said the two men, one in his twenties, the other in his forties, had been abducted from their apartments near the Vatican embassy in Panama City either before or during last week's US invasion. Both were civilians and the older one was employed.

US troops detained Cuba's ambassador and another Cuban diplomat near the envoy's Panama City residence yesterday but released both men a short time later, Cuban and US officials said.

Other US officials later emphatically denied that anyone was arrested or detained, saying the ambassador went "voluntarily" with the US troops to check the second man's identification.

The wife and two daughters of Noriega are believed to have taken refuge in the Cuban ambassador's residence in Panama City, a senior US embassy official said yesterday.



Panamanian President Guillermo Endara (centre) flanked by Vice-Presidents Ricardo Arias Calderon (left) and Guillermo Ford, wears the presidential sash after he and members of his government were formally recognised by the Electoral Tribunal.

APR 11 1990



Flassik officers with Consul General Palala during a simple reception for the sheltered maids of OWWA.

Flassik '89 bubbles with the season's spirit

THE 1989 members of the Flassik executive board and Flassik's friends held a special reception for the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration's sheltered maids last week, at the Philippine embassy grounds.

Witnessing the small get-together was Consul General Olivia V. Palala, Flassik's adviser. The co-ordinators brought food, small tokens and held a programme for the welfare recipients who were spending the season away from their friends and families.

The maids expressed their gratitude to Flassik and to the other groups of Filipinos and friends who remembered them during the holiday season.

A special thanks went to Norie Melgar and her group for the visit to the embassy and the Dahaya Abdallah Salem Police Station inmates who welcomed the warm food and clothes which were gifts from Flassik and friends.

Meanwhile, Flassik's Hospital Co-ordinating Committee and Welfare Referral Committee judiciously continued its activities in one close co-ordination with the labour attaché's office, the embassy's legal officer and the welfare office.

Flassik's president Grace Fe N Covarrubias and her officers extend sincere thanks to everyone who has supported them and their activities during 1989, especially those involved with their welfare projects.



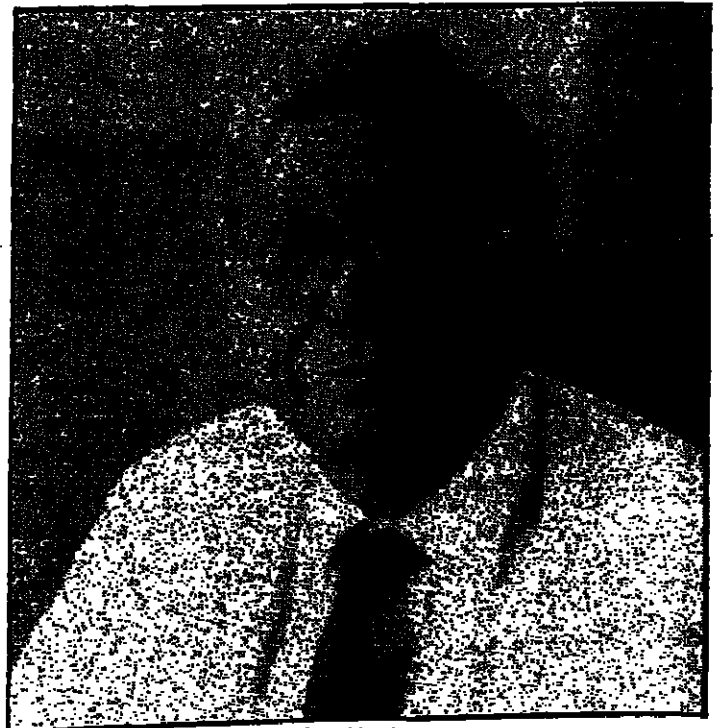
Flassik officers in their hospital visit to confined Filipino patients.

Bob Hughes moves to Dubai

GULF Advertising & Marketing, as part of its network expansion programme, is strengthening its presence in Dubai. This task has been mainly assigned to Bob Hughes who has recently moved to Dubai to take up the position as managing director of their branch office, Gulf Advertising (UAE). With his vast experience in handling the advertising of top international clients in previous appointments in London and overseas with FCB, JWT, CPV and Hellenic Advertising Co., Athens, Bob has been with GA&M at its head office in Bahrain over the past 12 years as member of the board of directors.

At a gathering in Bahrain to celebrate Bob's new appointment, Khamis Al Muqala, group managing director of GA&M, commented:

"The appointment of Bob Hughes as managing director of our Dubai office is a very important step towards servicing of our main clients in the UAE market and the development of our network offices. His task is to expand our business in this progressive commercial environment and to continue his involvement in the overall



Bob Hughes

development of new business regionally and internationally. We are confident that Bob with his many years experience and knowledge of the region is the right person for such tasks."

BAKALA FOR SALE

very good location in Farwaniya.
Contact:
Mohammed Arif
Tel: 4745766
from 2-7 pm

ARALIYA RESTAURANT
Al Nahla Building, Basement & Ground Floor
Tel: 2422549/2422548

Say goodbye 1989, welcome 1990 in style at Araliya!
31st Eve Dinner KD 4.500
01st Jan Lunch KD 4.800
Entertainment & 5 delicious, tantalizing menus
Chinese/Western and Sri Lankan, on offer, to suit your taste.
(Reservations recommended)
Give yourself a treat, come to Araliya!

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher news and variety
- 9.50 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Wa Tadour Al Dawar: Arabic serial (Part 11)
- 12.00 From my kitchen: Local programme, prepared and presented by Nuha Khalaf
- 12.20 News summary
- 12.25 Sabah Al Kher news
- 12.29 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.45 Bercen: cartoon serial
- 5.15 The Young Artist: local children's programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Sheikh
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Al Imam Mohammed Abdoh: Historical serial (Part 1), starring Salah Qabed, Asraf Abdul Ghafoor, Ahmad Maher, Fatema Mathhar
- 7.00 Varieties
- 7.15 Noor Al Islam: Religious programme prepared and presented by Ahmad Abdul Qader
- 7.45 Cultural programme
- 8.00 Security and citizens: local programme
- 8.30 Good Evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait**
Al Sharqiyah Pharmacy
Hilali Street
Al Ameen Pharmacy
Jaber Al Mubarak St.
- Hawalli and Nagra**
Al Kindi Pharmacy
Jabriyah
Salmiya
Razan Pharmacy
Razi Street
- Al Badiyah Pharmacy**
Fahabul
- Jeeb Al Saiyukh**
Al Ayoub Pharmacy
South Al Shiyukh Complex
- Jahra**
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.17 am
Zohr	11.50 am
Asr	2.41 pm
Maghreb	4.39 pm
Isha	6.21 pm

- 9.45 Varieties
- 10.30 Al Serdab: Arabic late night feature serial.
- 12.15 News summary
- 12.20 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.45 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening Announcement & Holy Quran
- 6.10 Hello Kitty: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Prestige "My mother was never a kid": A young girl has the chance to live during her mother's childhood so she can solve her problem with her mother's behaviour.
- 7.00 The Survival Factor "Wild River no more": The Colorado river is at the heart of political struggles... it influences the lives of nearly all the animals

that live in the valley during dry summer, it is the only reliable source of water.

7.30 Out of This World "Whose house is it?"

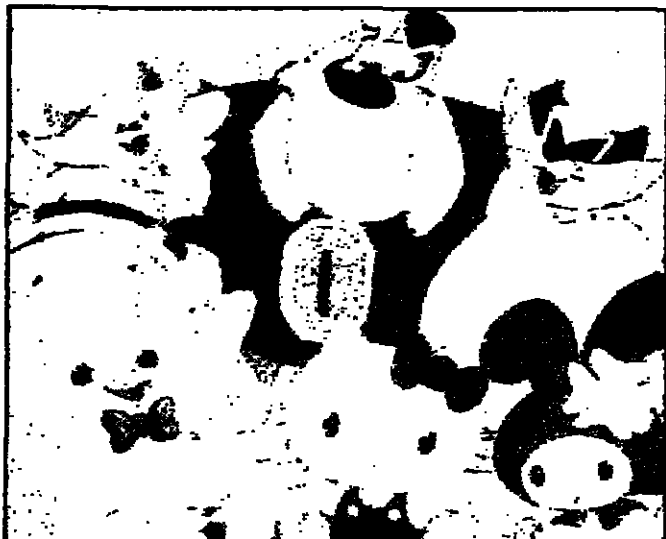
8.00 News in English

8.30 Starman "The Test": Scott decides to live alone away from his father's influence and with no interference from outer space powers but what happens when he faces his first difficulty at school.

9.30 The Infinite Voyage "The search for Ancient Americans": Archaeologists retrace the last great trek of mankind.

10.30 Late night film "Get smart again": Starring: Barbara Philo, Dick John.

12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite



KTV2, 6.10 — Hello Kitty

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Salmiya
Hall booked

Al Hamra
Licence to kill
Drive-in
W.L.L.O.W.

Al Firdous
Back fire

Fahabul
Main Azad Hoon
Al Jahra
Night wars
Granada
Good morning Vietnam
Salaikhah
Arabic film
Jeeb
Njan alude kochu Doctor
Ahmadi Drive-in
Caddy Shack II



Happy birthday to Gloria Ramos (L) and Shella (R) who celebrated their birthdays recently. Best wishes of the year come from families and friends.



BBC world service highlights

Health Matters

JANET Davey is back with another series of Health Matters and subjects under discussion include back pain. A specialist and a sufferer talk about what causes it, how to avoid it and how to treat the more common types of backache. Details of the latest treatments for epilepsy are also included and there is news of some simple games for children and adults which teach them how to look after themselves and other people.

Monday, January 1 at 14.15
Tuesday, January 2 at 11.15 and
Wednesday, January 3 at 05.15
On frequencies: 17.65 MHz / 17.01 m
15.07 MHz / 19.91 m
11.76 MHz / 25.51 m

Affairs of the Harp

MUSIC by harpist composers of the 18th and 19th century is featured in this new series of four programmes. This week the young Welsh harpist Sioned Williams introduces works by Johann Baptists Krumpholtz and Ludwig Spohr both of whom had wives who were virtuoso harpists.

Wednesday, January 3 at 15.15
Thursday, January 4 at 09.30 and 22.30
On frequencies: 17.64 MHz / 17.01 m
15.07 MHz / 19.91 m
11.76 MHz / 25.51 m

Once upon a time

HANS Christian Andersen's Pinnocchio is a favourite character with children everywhere. This new series of five programmes follows Christine Hardiment and her four children as they travel around Europe visiting the settings for some of the world's best loved fairy stories including that of the little wooden boy.

Friday, January 5 at 17.45
Sunday, January 7 at 12.15 and
Monday, January 8 at 07.45
On frequencies: 17.64 MHz / 17.01 m
15.07 MHz / 19.91 m
11.76 MHz / 25.51 m

It's not only rock 'n' roll

CRITICS of today's pop music dismiss it as being no more than lighthearted danceable fun. But that's not the whole story. It has spawned some very talented singer/songwriters whose skill and artistry have influenced many other artists. This new series of eight programmes looks at the history of pop music beginning with the birth of rock 'n' roll when Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly and Eddie Cochran numbered among the greats.

Tuesday, January 2 at 09.30 and
Wednesday, January 3 at 19.15
On frequencies: 17.64 MHz / 17.01 m
15.07 MHz / 19.91 m
11.76 MHz / 25.51 m

Flassik '89

Happy New Year

TO all the friends of Flassik and the Filipino community, generous sponsors and supporters of our various activities, the 1989 Flassik Executive Board, members of Flassik and all our welfare project recipients extend their warmest greetings for a bountiful and prosperous New Year.

During the past twelve months, Flassik '89 has undertaken various projects which endeavoured to cater to the needs of the working Filipino population in Kuwait.

Our various programmes of social interaction sought to assuage the homesickness felt by many Filipinos far away from their home country, allowing them to also showcase their God-given talents and providing them ample chance for recreation away from the pressures of their jobs.

However, Flassik '89 never lost sight of its impetus: its welfare projects catering and caring for those who have been imprisoned, maltreated, sick or mentally ill. We have given a new definition to the word service. But we were only the instrument of love and compassion: without the unyielding and generous support of the friends of Flassik our projects would not be as successful as they are. We continue our commitment of service even after Flassik '89. Our dedication to service and altruism will always be present as long as there are Filipinos in need of our care and attention.

We also wish to thank Ambassador and Mrs Tamano, Consul General Palala, Legal officer, Labour Attache, Welfare Officer and the other embassy staff who have been in close co-ordination with us in all our endeavours.

A Happy and Peaceful New Year to one and all.



Flassik president

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A Happy and Peaceful New Year to one and all.

ARTS

Lecture

PROFESSOR Oleg Grabar, of Harvard University, USA, will give a public lecture on "The Earliest Representations of Mosques in Islamic Art."

The lecture will be held on Wednesday, 3rd January, 1990 at 6.00 pm at the Kuwait National Museum lecture theatre. The lecture, which is in English, is open to all.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Aithar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Musical Variety
PAKISTAN Arts Circle will hold a musical variety programme on the eve of the "New Year" on Sunday, the 31st Dec, 1989 at Sr. Vice-President's residence. Zahid Saeed Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan will preside. The programme, includes competition of singers, presentation of a leading poet of Kuwait, bingo and "Bait-Bazi" of ladies, as well as many other attractive features. Families interested are welcome but they should collect the invitation cards. Honorary member families are requested to kindly collect their invitation cards from the Secretary, Public Relations, Hamid Mahmood: 4716258 as soon as possible.

II Annual one act Play Competition
INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Fumaises. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

IAC table tennis
THE IAC table tennis tournament from Dec 29 till Jan 5. All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (Tel: 3904817) after 7 pm, or Jagdish at Tel: 2433552, or Sharma at Tel: 2644863 for entry passes and details.

Saaz Aur Awaz
FEB 2: Saaz Aur Awaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisle Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Fumaises on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

Kalpaka's drama competition
Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpaka) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait) best direction. Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist, from the selected entries.

Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradayil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat, Kuwait. For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481, Kurian 5658072 or Balakrishnan 4316737.

Konkani Drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sousarant Astana Dast" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Fumaises) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar.

Philippine embassy
THE Philippine embassy in Kuwait will remain closed for three (3) consecutive days, from Saturday, 30 December 1989 until Monday, 01 January 1990, on account of Philippine holidays.

Danielle Coffee Morning
THE next coffee morning for Dances will be held on Jan 7 at 9.30 am in the Meridian Hotel, first floor. For details please call Inge — Tel: 3727688 ext. 207.

Vishal Musical Group
VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their second musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Fumaises, Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films, as well as classical and fast dances by young talented artists. There will be a lucky draw and tea served at the end of the show.

For gate passes contact: 2412970 (Raja Stores), 4317290 (Shahani Video) or 4318290 (Rhythm Cassette Shop).

Kuwait Cultural Centre
NEW courses at the cultural centre: yoga healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

IAC Children's Competition
THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Fumaises on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

SPORTS

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre
SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3.30 to 5.30, beginners-improvers-adults. Mixed keep fit classes, Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1.00 and 1-2.00, Sat 5-6.00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5.30-6.30. Martial arts w/ black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6-7.00 Tackwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments.

Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm — all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women. Gym facilities for men and women. Tennis courts — coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details — Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

New Year Masses

Holy masses on New Year's eve and New Year's day are as follows:

December 31: New Year's eve holy masses
7.30 am English
4.00 pm Konkani
6.00 pm English
10.00 pm Holy Hour (English)
11.00 pm Pontifical High Mass
January 1st 1990: New Year's day holy masses
7.00 am English
8.00 am English
9.00 am English
10.00 am English
11.00 am English
11.30 am French mass (in big hall)
12.00 noon English
3.00 pm Sinhalese
4.00 pm Konkani
5.00 pm English
6.00 pm English
7.00 pm Malayalam (in big hall)
January 5th: Solemnity of the Epiphany. For more information contact Fr. John Christom.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Stock analysts express disquiet

KIO wins approval for \$1.1 b takeover bid

Banks will not be in trouble

(Continued from Page 1)

example, he said Kuwaiti and Saudi banks differ from banks in Bahrain, UAE and Qatar.

Generally speaking, he said that Gulf banks are accustomed to deal with huge financial surplus, face limited local and international problems and consequently are deprived of gaining experience professionally.

However, he said that these banks have recently been facing "shrinking financial surplus and have also been saddled with the difficult debts problems on local and international levels, including the formation of giant cartels competing in the international markets."

He recommended that these banks first solve most of their local problems before thinking of merging their local activities like small banks in UAE for example. These banks must also integrate — or at least establish solid co-operation in their foreign operations to upgrade their economic performance in increasing revenues and cutting costs.

Should the integration process prove fruitful, the governments of the region should intensify their foreign operations through these banks on a commercial basis. This will expand the circle of the banks operations, consolidate their positions and ultimately improve their financial performance.

Saadoun stressed that the Gulf banks require a true and well qualified administrative personnel who should be experienced in all types of financing. With the presence of huge financial surplus employed in various investments and the presence of a capable administrative body in the banks appropriate decisions could be achieved. However, banks cannot acquire such a highly specialised body separately as it is a very costly process.

Thus, he said, banks in the Gulf should co-ordinate their efforts to acquire more sophisticated investment expertise to attract more Arab funds as a large genuine demand for these type of services exists in the Arab world.

MADRID, Dec 29, (Reuters): The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) has won official approval to launch a \$1.1 billion bid for Spanish industrial conglomerate Grupo Torras but stock analysts expressed disquiet today at the terms.

KIO, one of the largest foreign investors in Spain's booming economy, on Tuesday launched the biggest bid in the history of the Spanish stock exchange for control of the 60 per cent of the Barcelona-based group that it does not already own.

The Spanish National Securities Commission, modelled on the US Securities and Exchange Commission

(SEC), on Thursday gave the official go-ahead for the bid.

But stockbrokers and analysts in London and Madrid said they were not happy with the offer, which involves payment both in cash and in shares in Prima Inmobiliaria, a Spanish property company owned by KIO.

"I do not think investors are going to be overly amused," said Virginia Slight, an equities analyst at London-based investment bank, Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

Another London-based broker said he believed Torras had misled investors. "A year ago they were raising capital and saying what a good long-

term investment it was. Now they say for the benefit of shareholders they will take the company private."

However, most investors were expected to accept the offer rather than run the risk of holding onto shares that may prove difficult to sell in future.

KIO, which is making its offer through two Dutch-registered companies, Koolmees Holdings BV and Kokmeuw Holdings BV, is offering Torras shareholders one Prima Inmobiliaria share and 8,350 pesetas (\$76 dollars).

Spanish brokers said Prima's stock price had been artificially inflated, rising sharply since mid-November when

it was trading at 6,400 pesetas (\$58), to 8,400 pesetas (\$76.4) at the time KIO launched its bid.

"I think the price of Prima is absolutely artificial, they have kept Torras shares low and Prima shares high," said Jose Luis Lopez Quesada of Madrid brokerage firm Usera Y Morenes.

Narciso Mir, a director on the board of several Torras companies, denied there had been any manipulation of Prima or Torras stock in order to keep down the cost of the takeover bid.

Shares in Prima, Spain's second largest real estate company, had risen because of reports the Madrid mun-

icipal authorities were about to approve an ambitious office development by the company in the capital, he said.

Turnover of Torras shares had also been minimal in recent days before the launch of the bid, he said.

"If the offer is successful we will consider taking the company private and delisting it from the stock exchange," Mir said.

He said Torras was undergoing a change in strategy which could be detrimental to small shareholders. "We want to give them a way out," he said.

KIO's Spanish press office said in a

statement it was offering Torras investors a 20 per cent premium on the Torras share price on the day the bid was launched.

A group of Spanish investors led by Javier de la Rosa, who is the KIO's main business partner in Spain and is deputy chairman of Torras, intended to hold on to their 22 per cent stake in Torras, Mir said.

Since KIO bought into Torras in 1986 the company has been transformed from a loss-making paper company into a holding company with interests ranging from chemicals and paper pulp production to food-processing and stockbroking.

Plans to open embassy in Thailand

Kuwait vows to try to keep oil prices stable

BANGKOK, Dec 29, (Reuters): Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa said today Kuwait would try its best to stabilise oil prices in the next few years.

Sheikh Ali, at a news conference, also confirmed that Kuwait wants to invest in exploration and other sectors of the petroleum industry in Asia.

On the oil price, he said Kuwait was a major producer with large reserves and would serve its own interest by trying to prevent wild fluctuations.

"We will extend every effort to encourage the oil industry to evolve in an orderly and stable manner," he said.

Sheikh Ali said he believed sharp oil price changes in the 1970s and early 1980s had been harmful and should not be repeated.

The minister is in Thailand to explore investment opportunities.

He said Kuwait would expand exploration activity in Asia by



Sheikh Ali bidding for a stake in a concession in Thailand.

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation has undertaken exploration activity in Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, China and Pakistan.

Sheikh Ali said Kuwait plans to invest about \$200 million for opening 200 petrol stations in Thailand in the next two years. They would be Kuwait's first

retail outlets in Asia.

Kuwait fully supported a Thai plan to build a land bridge between the Indian Ocean and South China Sea, he said.

Kuwait would help finance feasibility studies of the proposed 160-km highway, rail and oil pipeline link which in the long term would cut the cost of shipping Middle East oil to Japan and the Far East.

He said KPC also proposed to invest at least \$200 million to establish about 200 retail gasoline stations under the name of "Q8" throughout Thailand in the next two years.

"I believe in the future of this region, particularly Thailand. They (Thailand) have high growth rates and stability," he said.

Kuwait has told Thailand it hopes to invest in the Thai petrochemical industry, petroleum exploration and the retail oil trade, a Thai official said yesterday.

Korn Dabbarangsi, minister of the prime minister's office in charge of oil affairs, said investment was discussed with Sheikh Ali.

He quoted the Kuwaiti minister as saying Kuwait would help underwrite feasibility studies for a multi-billion-dollar oil and petrochemical complex in southern Thailand.

A government spokesman said Sheikh Ali told Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan that Kuwait would soon open an embassy in Thailand. It has been represented by its embassy in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, world crude oil prices fell by up to 25 cents per barrel yesterday after a rally that began early in December when very cold weather hit the United States.

Profit-taking on the New York Mercantile Exchange dragged down heating oil futures there by as much as 12 per cent.

'Economic growth prospects not exciting'

NEW YORK, Dec 29, (AP): World economic growth will continue next year — but barely, a business research group reported yesterday.

The Conference Board's international economic scorecard shows the composite leading index for 11 major industrial countries inching up at an annual rate of 1 per cent, down from 4 per cent six months ago and 5 per cent a year ago. The leading index is designed to foretell economic activity.

"Throughout the industrial world, the outlook for economic expansion is not very exciting," said Edgar R. Fiedler, vice president of the group. "Although neither a recession nor an inflationary boom is impossible in the months ahead, neither seems probable," Fiedler said.

One of the few countries with any vigour is Taiwan. Its leading economic index is rising at an 8 per cent yearly pace, the same as three months ago and up slightly from the 7 per cent pace posted six months ago.

But Taiwan's economy apparently has cooled from a year ago when its leading index was rising at a 15 per cent rate.

Here are the annual rates of change in the latest leading indexes for the other 10 countries included in the Conference Board's International Economic Scorecard, compared with the rates released a year ago:

Budget planners face easier choice

Brightest prospects for Saudis

DUBAI, Dec 29, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia may lift state spending in 1990 now higher oil prices and output have given Riyadh's budget planners the brightest prospects for seven years, say regional economists.

Firmer world oil prices coupled with forecast Saudi average daily output next year of somewhere over five million barrels per day (BPD) against about 4.6 million this year may be enough to cut the budget deficit at the same time, they said.

Riyadh is expected to fund any shortfall entirely through the issue of state bonds, as it did in 1989, they said.

Saudi Arabia's state budget spending typically accounts for over 50 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and, as the biggest economy on the Arabian Peninsula, it is an important determinant of economic prospects in the region.

An improved outlook immediately raises business confidence in the other Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman.

Oil is the central factor, providing historically up to 90 per cent of government revenues over the years.

"Last year, it looked as if they factored a \$12-a-barrel price into the budget. This year, they should be able to factor in \$15-16 at a higher output," said an regional bank economist.

Projected spending for 1989 was 141 billion riyals (\$37.6 billion) with revenues of 116 billion (30.9 billion), leaving a 25 billion (6.7 billion) deficit covered by state bond issues, which were introduced in 1988.

The 1990 budget is expected to be published on January 1.

Independent economists expect more emphasis on raising finance through such bond issues, especially through tapping private capital held outside the banks.

The economists estimate Riyadh has drawn down around \$70 billion of reserves since 1983 to cover its deficits, leaving around 65 billion in the coffers.

"The days of drawing down foreign reserves to cover deficits are long over," said a Western diplomatic economist.

The independent economists do not expect a major rise in spending but forecast that Riyadh will pursue the cautious policies adopted during the worst years of the oil price collapse in the mid-1980s.

Saudi Arabia is expected to encourage its private sector, in an effort to avoid the worst effects of the boom-bust cycle arising from over-reliance on growth led by state spending.

Defence spending is difficult to gauge accurately within the state accounts due to the part-payment in oil and industrial offset programmes with many suppliers.

This kind of deal includes the huge Al Yamamah arms purchase from Britain, estimated to be worth over \$15 billion into the next century.

Bonn currency may hold its dominant position

Mark depresses dollar

LONDON, Dec 29, (Reuters): The dollar saw out the European trading year near its 1989 lows against a seemingly invincible mark, and dealers said the West German currency looked certain to hold its dominant position well into the New Year.

The mark depressed the dollar to a 19-month low in London yesterday and forced Britain's pound sterling to an all-time trade low in mark terms.

Both the dollar and the pound fared slightly better before European foreign exchange markets wound up early this afternoon, the last trading day of the year.

But neither could raise any challenge to the mark, which has soared in the last two months on the belief that West Germany will reap rich benefits from the tide of reformism sweeping Eastern Europe.

"Germany is at the heart of Europe and West Germany is the East bloc's major trading partner," said Martin Wiedmann of Citibank in Frankfurt.

"That should give West Germany the biggest chances from events in the East."

Dealers said expectations of a further easing in US credit policy, coupled with talk of higher West German interest rates next year, looked set to reinforce the mark's strength.

The dollar edged up off yesterday's closing low of 1.6885 marks to end in London today at 1.6915. It was also marginally up against the yen at 143.65,

compared with a previous close of 143.30.

But dealers said the dollar could drop even lower against the mark in the short term, testing the 1.60 level last seen two years ago. The dollar ended last year at 1.7755 marks.

The pound fell as low as 2.7215 marks in London yesterday before closing at 2.7233 — still well below its previous traded low of 2.7354 in 1987.

News today of a narrowing in Britain's trade and current account deficits in November helped the pound perk up slightly to end the European year at 2.7280 marks, and dealers said it should hold steady in the near term.

"The corner has been turned on the trade deficit and the improvement in balance of payments data will sustain sterling early next year," one London dealer said.

Britain's trade shortfall narrowed to £1.52 billion (\$2.45 billion) from a revised £1.83 billion (\$2.95 billion) in October while the current account deficit fell to £1.42 billion (\$2.29 billion) from £1.73 billion (\$2.79 billion).

The British trade figures boosted London stocks. The Financial Times/Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares closed 23.9 points up at 2,422.7 — only 3.3 points off its 1989 high and within sight of its all-time high of 2,443.4, touched in July 1987. The index rose 36 per cent over the year.

Lukman appointed foreign minister

Major cabinet reshuffle

LAGOS, Dec 29, (Reuters): Opec president Rilwanu Lukman, a key moderating force in the 13-nation oil exporters group, was moved from his job as Nigeria's Oil Minister today and appointed foreign minister in a major cabinet reshuffle.

The move was announced in a statement from President Ibrahim Babangida's office. The new Nigerian Oil Minister is Jibril Aminu, who was moved from the Ministry of Education.

It was not immediately clear whether Lukman, 51, would continue to serve as president of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

But Opec has drawn previous presidents from oil ministries among member states and oil analysts said it was unlikely that he would continue in the job.

He was re-elected Opec president in November after serving several six-month terms since his appointment in June 1986 and was widely credited

with having smoothed out differences among Opec member states over market share and pricing policy. The group has long been split between Gulf states with huge oil reserves and poorer more populous countries in Africa and Latin America with less oil in the ground to draw on.

Lukman was seen by the oil industry as an effective and skilled mediator between the two groups. He joined the cabinet first as minister of mines, power and steel in 1984 after General Mohammed Buhari overthrew the civilian government of Shehu Shagari on the eve of that year.

The organisation has long been split over whether it should go for a higher share of the world market, which would imply lower prices, or push prices up as much as possible and keep the taps turned down.

The split saw prices fall from a peak of well over \$30 a barrel in the early 1980s to lows of under \$10 a barrel in mid-1986.

\$500 million bridge loan for Poland

WASHINGTON, Dec 29, (Reuters): Industrial nations have finalised an emergency loan for Poland of as much as \$500 million to help cushion the blow of a tough economic austerity programme, the US Treasury said today.

The United States, as previously announced by President George Bush on December 13, will provide \$200 million of the money, which will tide Poland over until it receives a longer-term loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Solidarity-led government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki intends to launch an ambitious economic plan next week in an effort to jump start an economy that has stagnated under 45 years of communist central planning.

To crush inflation of about 30 per cent a month, the government will impose a tight cap on wages and slash state subsidies.

IMF and Polish economists expect real incomes to slump about 20 per cent and hundreds of thousands of workers to lose their jobs before the economy stabilises.

Energy pact

CAIRO, Dec 29, (UPI): Egypt and Libya yesterday signed a bilateral co-operation agreement in the field of energy in accordance with which the national grid in both North African states would be unified.

The state-controlled Cairo radio said the protocol was signed by Egypt's Energy and Power Minister Maher Abaza and his Libyan counterpart Gomaa S. El Ebrashi.

Iraq, Jordan sign trade accord

AMMAN, Dec 29, (Reuters): Jordan yesterday signed a \$800 million trade protocol for 1990 with Iraq, its biggest trading partner, officials said.

Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan and Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran reduced the target for bilateral trade from \$900 million in the 1989 protocol.

Ramadan arrived in Amman on Wednesday for the twice-yearly session of a joint higher Iraqi-Jordanian committee.

The new protocol says Iraq will continue to give special priority to Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba, a vital conduit for Iraqi trade during the eight-year Gulf war.

Officials said the agreement envisages Jordan importing about \$350 million worth of Iraqi crude in exchange for goods and services. Oil barter trade was worth \$300 million in 1989.


Iraq once owed Amman more than \$600 million, but officials say Iraqi repayments of \$15 million a month in 1989 have helped cut the government-guaranteed debt to less than \$400 million, its lowest for several years.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

For Subscription in Issue No. (85) for Treasury Bills

Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of TREASURY BEARER BILLS in Kuwaiti Dinar for SUBSCRIPTION in compliance with the following Rules and Regulations:

1. AMOUNT OF ISSUE:
The Amount of this Issue is KD 120 million distributed over THREE Denominations as follows:
KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500 000
2. ISSUE DATE : Wednesday 3 / 1 / 1990
3. DUE DATE : Wednesday 4 / 4 / 1990
4. OFFERING PERIOD:
From : Saturday 30 / 12 / 1989
To : Tuesday 2 / 1 / 1990
5. ALLOTMENT: Wednesday 3 / 1 / 1990
6. DELIVERY OF BILLS:
After one week following the date of submitting the application.
7. The Provisions of this Issue shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

Companies eager to stake out new markets

TOKYO, Dec 29, (Reuters): Japanese companies are rushing to stake their claims to new business opportunities in a liberalised Eastern bloc and Soviet Union.

But analysts warn they face political risks and are unlikely to strike quick profits.

"In the short term, Japan has absolutely no chance to boost trade with those countries," said a researcher at the Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro). "Political reforms will not bring about more trade," he said. "Rather, the reforms could have negative effect and disrupt once-established channels of business communication."

Kiyofumi Yamada, analyst at the Nikko Research Centre said: "Companies will change their business stance if they see less political risks. But everything is uncertain up to now."

"They (companies) have to consider possible political risks. Otherwise, they would eventually get their hands burned. For example, if Stalinism takes a comeback, the companies must pull out from the countries."

"The Japanese companies are currently trying to see if those countries will stabilise politically and economically."

A major problem is that many of the countries do not have foreign currency to pay for products from the West, several analysts said.

"Those countries are unable to buy much even if consumer demand at home is strong," said the Jetro researcher, who did not wish to be named.

But trading houses, electronic firms, car makers and other Japanese companies have high hopes and are hurrying to set up representative offices and joint ventures in East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

NEC Corporation said it plans to open representative offices in Budapest and Warsaw before April 1 and another in Moscow sometime afterwards.

"Our decision is based on the assumption that the market for data communications networks in the region will expand, and that rules governed by the coordinating committee for Export to communist areas (Cocom) will be deregulated," an NEC spokeswoman said.

Investment liberalised

SEOUL, South Korea, Dec 29, (AP): South Korea has removed a 49 per cent ceiling, allowing foreign companies to invest 100 per cent in three sensitive manufacturing areas and 99 per cent in advertising agencies, the Finance Ministry said today.

Officials said the measures, effective Jan 1, followed an agreement with the United States to further ease barriers to foreign investment in South Korea.

The government in principle has allowed foreign companies to own up to 49 per cent of the equity in sensitive manufacturing corporations, reserving control for Korean partners.

The ceiling was lifted for manufacturing of optical fibres and optical fibre cables, electronic switching equipment and medical supplies, officials said.

They also said tax exemption will be granted to foreign investment in 13 high-technology industries to strengthen the competitiveness of domestic companies by introducing foreign high technology.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Dec 29, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2417	0.2528
Sterling	0.4731	0.4771
DM	0.1726	0.1735
Sw Fr	0.1003	0.1016
FF	0.0050	0.0050
Yen	0.0023	0.0023
Jap yen	0.002017	0.002036
Bah din	0.7266	0.7292
UAE Dirh	0.0754	0.0754
S ryal	0.0775	0.0781
Q ryal	0.0809	0.0808
O ryal	0.7578	0.7607

Interest Rates

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8.1	8.1/2
3 months	8.16	8.1/2
6 months	8.1	8.1/8
1 year	8.1/16	8.3/8

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.430
Sri Lankan rupee	7.390
Pakistan rupee	13.790
Bangladesh taka	8.990
US dollar	292.70
Pound sterling	477.00
UAE dirham	0.0966
Deutsche mark	173.70
Japanese yen	002068

Higher defence, foreign aid spending allocated

Japanese cabinet approves 1990 budget

TOKYO, Dec 29, (AP): The cabinet today approved the final draft of a fiscal 1990 budget that would substantially increase foreign aid and allocate more for defence, including a bigger share of the costs of basing US troops here.

The 66.273 trillion yen (\$466.7 billion) budget, a 9.7 per cent increase over fiscal 1989, was approved at a special cabinet meeting held shortly after midnight (1500 GMT Thursday), Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said.

Nakayama said the budget, which still must be approved in parliament, would provide \$17.5 billion yen (\$5.76 billion) for official development assistance, up 8.2 per cent from last year's foreign aid spending, a ministry official reported.

It also would give 4.16 trillion yen (\$29.3 billion) to defence, pushing the defence budget above the 4 trillion yen (\$28.5 billion) level for the first time, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The amount is 6.11 per cent more than in the current fiscal year, but because of economic expansion will dip below 1 per cent of Japan's gross national product for the first time in four years, accounting for 0.997 per cent.

In the mid-1970s, Japan adopted a policy of keeping defence spending to within 1 per cent of the GNP, but since 1988 it has allowed the figure to hover just above that former ceiling. Its current spending roughly equals that of France, West Germany or Britain.

Officials said the increase is needed to improve housing and living conditions of the self defence forces and help meet American demands that Tokyo pay more of the costs of maintaining the roughly 50,000 US troops stationed here.

Japan currently shoulders about \$2.8 billion or 45 per cent of the US troops' annual expenses, and US President George Bush last month signed a bill that urges Tokyo to pay the total cost.

But the increase is expected to draw shrill criticism from the major opposition parties, which won a majority in the upper house of parliament in July for the first time in more than three decades.

Military spending always is a sensitive subject in Japan, whose post-World War II constitution bans war as a means of settling international disputes.

The increase in foreign aid outlays indicates Japan's desire to meet growing demands that it contribute more of its wealth to the international community, Foreign Ministry officials have said.

Japan replaced the United States as the world's largest donor of non-military foreign aid last year, with its actual disbursement reaching \$9.13 billion and has pledged to provide more than \$30 billion in official development assistance over a five-year period beginning in 1988.

Also included in the budget was an additional 888 million yen (\$6.3 million) earmarked as aid for Poland and Hungary, Kyodo News Service reported.

He said the forecast was based on an estimated 10.3 per cent increase in imports in the coming year, bringing their total value from \$195 billion in fiscal 1989 to \$215 billion.

The government also estimated exports will grow from \$276 billion to \$293 billion next year, an increase of 6.2 per cent, he said.

He said the Japanese government has realised the need to drastically reduce its huge trade surplus, which has been roughly \$90 billion a year for the past three years.

"We believe that it is not appropriate for Japan to continue with such a large trade surplus, and that if it does continue, the preservation of the free trade system could become difficult," he said.

Naito said the leaders of several Japanese business organisations have expressed opposition to the plan out of concern that it would cut into their current business by making it easier for foreign goods to enter Japan.

Failed coup likely to cut growth

Economy in good shape, says Manila bank chief

MANILA, Dec 29, (Reuters):

The recent coup attempt in the Philippines is likely to raise inflation, put pressure on the local currency and dampen foreign investment during the first half of 1990, Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme said today.

But he told reporters the government of President Corason Aquino was taking steps to counter the potential impact of the coup attempt, the sixth and bloodiest in almost four years.

Jayme said the government hoped to contain inflation at around 11 per cent in 1990 from an earlier projection of 13 per cent, and keep real growth in gross national product at between five and six per cent.

Inflation hit a high of 13.4 per cent in October but eased to 12.8 per cent last month, official statistics show.

"All in all, the combined

efforts of the government and private sector should result in a continuation of economic growth into 1990 at around 5-6 per cent level," Jayme said.

Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez said yesterday the economy had overcome the immediate ill effects of the December 1-7 putsch and prospects for 1990 looked good.

"The economy is a pretty healthy baby. It is bouncing around, crying loud and does not seem to have suffered enormously from that fall from the crib," he told reporters.

Jayme told a news conference the attempted coup could possibly cost the country some 200,000 jobs, cut growth to five per cent and raise inflation to 13 per cent. But he said this would only be if the government's

ADB approves aid

MANILA, Dec 29, (UPI): The Asian Development Bank yesterday approved two technical assistance grants totalling \$635,000 for the Philippines and the South Pacific islands of Kiribati.

An announcement by the Manila-based bank said the Japan special fund will finance a \$350,000 grant to develop horticulture production in the Philippines, where demand for this is growing.

ADB said the grant will enable Manila to develop marketing system for fruits and vegetables and identify prospects for an investment project.

The bank also approved a \$385,000 technical assistance grant to Kiribati to study inter island transport for the 33-island nation. ADB said the study will help develop shipping, ports, ship repairs and domestic airline services in the country.

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Jayme told a news conference the attempted coup could possibly cost the country some 200,000 jobs, cut growth to five per cent and raise inflation to 13 per cent. But he said this would only be if the government's

measures did not work.

"In sum, the coup attempt will not reverse our continued economic growth. However, its potential impact especially in the form of increasing inflationary pressure, and dampening new investments might be felt in the first half of 1990."

"If the impact is severe, our growth might be more in the five per cent level than the six per cent level," he said.

Government steps include boosting credit to industry, trying to curb interest rate increases, keeping inflation under control and relying on foreign borrowings more extensively, Jayme said. He said Manila would also try to increase revenue collection.

Advance estimates from the National Statistics Co-ordination Board showed that real gross national product grew by 5.5 per cent in 1989 from 6.58 per cent in 1988.

He helped create London's FT

Lord Drogheda dead

LONDON, Dec 29, (AP): Lord Drogheda, who helped create the modern Financial Times, Britain's business daily, died on Dec 24 at age 79, the newspaper reported yesterday.

An obituary in the pink-paper said, "he combined a vision of excellence with a relentless attention to detail and a refusal to be satisfied with anything less than the highest standards."

Drogheda and his editor Sir Gordon Newton built the Financial Times in the 1950s from a newspaper of small circulation for London's city financial district into a daily journal read throughout the world. The newspaper is renowned for the accuracy, impartiality and scope of its world-wide business and political coverage and it also has a closely read arts section.

The Financial Times was founded in 1888 and now sells around 300,000 copies daily, including an international edition printed in Frankfurt, New York and Paris.

Drogheda, who was Charles Garrett Ponsonby Moore before he inherited the 300-year-old earldom in 1957, came from Anglo-Irish stock and sold

advertising space on the Financial Times in the 1930s. He became managing director in the 1940s, chairman in 1971 and retired in 1975.

FT said: "Charming, aristocratic, deceptively languid in manner, with a deep interest in the arts, Drogheda seemed the very opposite of Newton, who concealed his intellectual ability behind a blunt, unpretentious and often uncommunicative exterior."

A New Statesman profile once described Drogheda as a man

who knew practically everyone and Newton as a man who knew practically no-one. Yet the partnership worked.

"Newton provided the flair in knowing what readers wanted in distinguishing a good article from a bad one and, perhaps most important, in recruiting staff. Drogheda was his constant good, always pressing for action on small matters and large, determined to keep the paper expanding. Five, sometimes ten memos a day would be delivered from Drogheda's office on the sixth floor of Bracken House to the Editor's office on the second."

"Are you satisfied with the New York coverage? What are your plans for next year? They were known as Droghedagrams. If no answer came, the memo was repeated an hour or so later."

Newton was forced to put his mind to the issue and do something about it."

Drogheda, pronounced Droyeda, had been chairman of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and a director of the Royal Ballet.

His wife, concert pianist Joan Carr, died eight days before him. They had one son.

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Drogheda, pronounced Droyeda, had been chairman of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and a director of the Royal Ballet.

His wife, concert pianist Joan Carr, died eight days before him. They had one son.

Lord Drogheda

advertising space on the Financial Times in the 1930s. He became managing director in the 1940s, chairman in 1971 and retired in 1975.

FT said: "Charming, aristocratic, deceptively languid in manner, with a deep interest in the arts, Drogheda seemed the very opposite of Newton, who concealed his intellectual ability behind a blunt, unpretentious and often uncommunicative exterior."

A New Statesman profile once described Drogheda as a man

who knew practically everyone and Newton as a man who knew practically no-one. Yet the partnership worked.

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"If the impact is severe, our growth might be more in the five per cent level than the six per cent level," he said.

Government steps include boosting credit to industry, trying to curb interest rate increases, keeping inflation under control and relying on foreign borrowings more extensively, Jayme said. He said Manila would also try to increase revenue collection.

Advance estimates from the National Statistics Co-ordination Board showed that real gross national product grew by 5.5 per cent in 1989 from 6.58 per cent in 1988.

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Managing Director Kazuhiro Nagakawa (foreground back to camera) leads floor dealers to the traditional hand-clapping ceremony after finishing market activity in the last trading day of 1989 at the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday. The stock exchange ended on an up note, gaining 38.93 yen to a record high of 38,915.87 yen in the year's final trading. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tokyo stock market closes year's trading

Nikkei hits record high

TOKYO, Dec 29, (Reuters): Tokyo shares managed on the last day of 1989 to squeeze out a fitting finish to their year-end rally thanks to window dressing, brokers said.

The key 225-share Nikkei index crawled up 38.93 points to 38,915.87 today, its fourth straight record close.

"Investors tend to be very cautious of closing prices," said Ross Rowbury, a senior broker at Sanyo Securities Co Ltd. "They like to see their portfolios close on a nice note at the end of the year."

The Nikkei hit another record traded high at the opening. True to its gravity defying reputation, the Nikkei managed a gain of 29 per cent this year despite three rises in the official discount rate in 1989.

"Most people are looking for about 20 per cent appreciation in the index next year," Rowbury said.

"It looks like another good year."

Momentum dwindled as brokers

VARIETY

'The Rose Garden' is a grim reminder of Nazi atrocities

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): With the reunification of Germany fast becoming a real possibility, actress Liv Ullmann suggests that people consider why the nation was split in two in the first place.

World War II. The holocaust. The Norwegian actress portrays a contemporary German lawyer in "The Rose Garden," based on the true story of a Nazi who conducted medical experiments on 20 Jewish children (five of them were only 12 years old) in 1945 and then hanged them just before allied troops arrived.

The official, an SS officer, never was convicted. He lives today — apparently immune from the law — in Hamburg as a respected member of society.

"The Rose Garden" is a grim reminder of Nazi atrocities and Ullmann believes such stories must come to the screen, particularly now during the international dialogue over reunification.

While filming on location of

Berlin and Hamburg, Ullmann said she was astonished over how little young Germans know about their country's Nazi past and that Germans of every age seem to have put the holocaust behind them and out of their minds.

Even West German text books gloss over the war and the Nazis, she said.

"That's why films like 'The Rose Garden' must be produced and seen," she said. Otherwise genocide can happen again. If not in Germany, then elsewhere in the world.

So incensed was she while on location in Hamburg, she and co-star Maximilian Schell considered knocking on the door of the former SS officer to confront him. They didn't do it.

"Not one of the students I asked playing in the schoolyard were aware that the rose garden planted outside the school was in memory of those innocent little children."

"I was shocked. I asked our young first assistant director — a

beautiful young, well-educated German — 'Can you believe these students don't know about what happened here?'

"And he said, 'Why should they know? To be honest, I think this incident has been exaggerated.'"

"Yet he had seen the documents and the actual photographs," Ullmann said, incredulous.

"The real horror is that the young assistant is not a bad man," she said. "He is typical of the young German university-educated people. They want to forget."

"It's not only Germans. It's a common attitude in Europe, even in Jewish communities. There is shame attached to the holocaust and a desire to forget."

"When we were making the film in Germany the people knew that Maximilian and I were working in a picture, but the content of the film was all but ignored. They couldn't relate to it."

"The thing that bothered me most was references to the story in print and conversation said only 20 children were killed at the school, not 20 Jewish children."

"The world must not forget the significance of the fact that people in the 20th century were murdered because of their religion," Ullmann said.

"We wanted to see this monster face-to-face," she said, "but Maximilian and I couldn't agree on what we would do when we saw him."

"The character I play and some of the others are fictional. We are simply the vehicles to tell the story. Everything else is absolutely true. The Nazi was strong enough to get a court order to prevent our using his name in the film."

"When he was taken to court, the German prosecutor set him free. It is hard to believe, but that is the truth."

The producers of the movie have identified the former SS man as Arnold Strippel, who served 20 years in prison for the murders of 21 adult Russian prisoners. He was freed in 1969 and was given 121,500 marks as compensation for his time in prison.



Liv Ullmann



Novel ice-skating

In a novel twist to ice-skating, a father pushes his son, sitting on a camp stool, across the ice at Beijing's Beihai park yesterday. Beijing residents are

taking advantage of winter sports during the recent sunny and pleasant winter. (Reuters wirephoto)

A powerhouse of energy at 85

LONDON. (Reuters): Sir Michael Tippett, Britain's greatest living composer, is a powerhouse of energy in his mid-80s.

Tippett's fifth opera, "New Year," opened in the United States in October and he has just finished a new commission based on W.B. Yeats' poem "Sailing to Byzantium" which will probably be sung by Jessye Norman.

His next project is a 5th string quartet and in December he found time to launch a scathing attack on the government's funding programme for opera.

Tippett, who will be 85 on Jan 2, is planning to spend the first three months of next year on a tour of the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

"I'm looking forward to it immensely. I'm going to have a riotous time, so look out USA and Australia," Tippett told Reuters.

He said there were no plans for a sixth opera because they took so long in their "gestation" but he was involved in a range of other ventures.

"He has done a tremendous amount this year and there are no signs he is slowing down," his agent Nicholas Wright said.

The composer's wide output, including symphonies, concertos, chamber music and works for piano, chorus and solo voices, is due to a strict regimen totally geared to what he has called his "primal obligation to compose."

In an interview, Tippett said: "Yes I'm satisfied with my musical achievements so far, but I only want to write if I'm exploring something new."

Tippett has told friends his work had three purposes: to reflect the horrors and sufferings of mankind, to show compassion, and to identify with the dreams of a better future.

Audiences were baffled when he began to publish pieces at the age of 30. Musicians said his music was impossible to play and singers described his opera as self-indulgent and obscure.

"The Midsummer Marriage," Tippett's first opera, had its premiere at London's Covent Garden in January 1955. One of the cast said: "I don't know what it means. I must know my part."

But after his second opera, "King Priam" in 1962, it was clear Tippett had started to gain approval.

"The Mask of Time," an opera piece for orchestra, vast chorus and soloists, was hailed as a masterpiece at its premiere in 1980 when the composer was 79.

An 80-minute piece on the fate of humanity and the possibility of hope, it draws on Shelley, Milton and television. Tippett admitted to being hooked by the soap opera "Dallas."

Tippett, who prides himself on being a radical outsider, was born in London on Jan 2, 1905, to well-off, but unconventional parents.

Collins keeps top position for third week

NEW YORK, (AP): Phil Collins remained atop the pop singles record chart in the United States for the third week in a row Wednesday with his hit "Another Day in Paradise."

Unchanged from last week's positions were three other discs: "Don't Know Much" by Linda Ronstadt and Aaron Neville at spot number two; Taylor Dayne's "With Every Beat of My Heart" at number five; and "Living in Sin" by Bon Jovi at number nine.

Janet Jackson's "Rhythm Nation" climbed up a notch from last week's fourth position to third, and Cher's "Just Like Jesse James" jumped up three steps to grab fourth place from last week's seventh, and "Pump Up the Jam" by Technoronic moved to spot number six from last week's eighth.

There were three newcomers to the top 10 list this week:

"This One's For the Children" by the New Kids on the Block, up from 11th to 7th, "Just Between You and Me" by Lou Gramm, up from 13th to 8th, and Michael Bolton's "How I Am Supposed to Live Without You" up from 15th to 10th.

As for the Country-and-Western singles, Lorrie Morgan took over number one on the Cash Box magazine chart with "Out of Your Shoes." Highway 101's "Who's Lonely Now" was second and Ronnie Milsap's "A Woman in Love" was third.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) Another Day in Paradise — Phil Collins (Atlantic).

2. (2) Don't Know Much — Linda Ronstadt and Aaron Neville (Elektra).

3. (4) Rhythm Nation — Janet Jackson (A and M).

4. (7) Just Like Jesse James — Cher (Geffen).

5. (5) With Every Beat of My Heart — Taylor Dayne (Arista).

6. (8) Pump up the Jam — Technoronic (SBK).

7. (11) This One's For the Children — New Kids on the Block (Columbia).

8. (13) Just Between You and Me — Lou Gramm (Atlantic).

9. (9) Living in Sin — Bon Jovi (Mercury-Polygram).

10. (15) How I Am Supposed to Live Without You — Michael Bolton (Columbia).

The top 10 Country-Western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions

in brackets:

1. (3) Out of Your Shoes — Lorrie Morgan (RCA).

2. (4) Who's Lonely Now — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers).

3. (1) A Woman in Love — Ronnie Milsap (RCA).

4. (7) That Just About Does It — Vern Gosdin (Columbia).

5. (5) There Goes My Heart — Holly Dunn (Warner Brothers).

6. (8) It Ain't Nothin' — Keith Whitley (RCA).

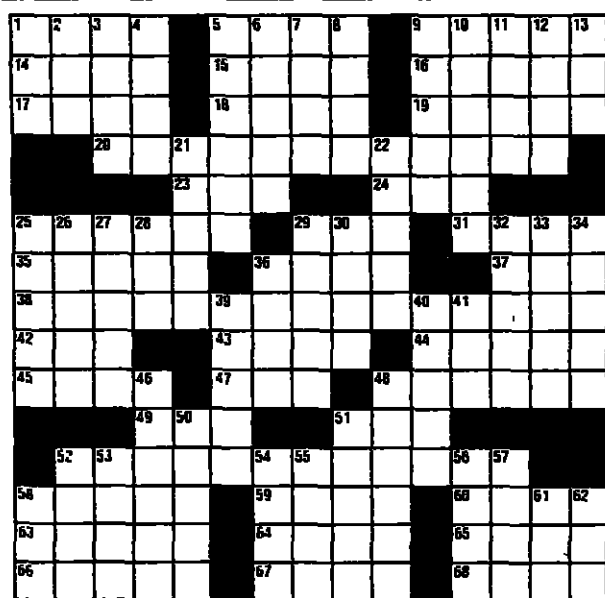
7. (12) Many a Lonely Highway — Rodney Crowell (Columbia).

8. (9) She's Gone Gone Gone — Glenn Campbell (Universal).

9. (11) It's You Again — Skip Ewig (MCA).

10. (13) Nobody's Home — Clint Black (RCA).

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Ledger entry
 - Soothing application
 - "— that will live in infamy": FDR
 - Exchange premium
 - Cosmetics additive
 - King of ancient Egypt
 - Custom
 - Disenchanters
 - Aboveboard
 - "Sweet" girl of song
 - Take the gold
 - Allow
 - Combat mission
 - Gone by
 - Per
 - "Everyone is —": Mark Twain
 - Con — (with vigor)
 - Lulu dish
 - Carmichael song
 - USNA graduate
 - Hacienda, for one
 - Outwit
 - O-V connection
 - Seine sight
 - Certain acids
 - Large cash
 - Burrows of Bway
 - Timber trees of the South
 - Mea —
 - Variety of chalcidony
 - Honky-tonk
 - Escarot
 - Put-in-Bay's lake
 - Persia, today
 - Magnani et al.
 - Snigglers' catch
- DOWN
- Care for
 - Margery of rhyme
 - Self
 - Crooner
 - Crosby
 - Carry
 - "Peter Pan" creator
 - Correct the wheels
 - Sacramento's neighbor
 - Flat-topped hill
 - Love, in Livorno
 - Dedicate
 - Again
 - Noddy or sooty
 - NYS time
 - In arrears
 - Flower
 - More learned
 - Portents
 - Cock's territory
 - "High —": Anderson play
 - Responded to the alarm
 - Lollobrigida
 - Ol bees
 - Popular pad
 - Conceals
 - False god
 - Frosting
 - Red Sea republic
 - 1006, to Cato
 - Shangri-la, for one
 - Tolerates
 - Russian range
 - The "cruellest month," to T.S. Eliot
 - "Peter —": Craig Stevens
 - TV series
 - Panache
 - Words of comprehension
 - Berne's river
 - 56 Do a publishing job
 - Your majesty!
 - J. Davis was his pres.
 - Moving vehicle
 - 61 Moving vehicle
 - Remnant

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ADDA CABAL SODA
SOUR AROSE CIVIL
OVERWEIGHT REAR
RELEASE EAGERLY
SLASH LEAP
EMOTER ENORMOUS
LOVES CLONE WIT
TRED BELLE RENO
TAR NADIA PORTO
ENCLOSURE VASSAL
HAUT HAITI
BRASSIE COINAGE
OARS OVERLOADED
JINGE NORIA TANG
LIES SEEDS ERSE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠6 ♠AQJ106 ♠Q652 ♠K85

The bidding has proceeded: West North East South

Pass Pass 1 ♠ ?

What action do you take?

A.—When the opponents have bid your best suit, it is almost always right to pass. If you double, you are in deep water should partner respond some number of spades. You don't have the values for a one no trump overall, which shows the equivalent of a 1 NT opening bid.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠6 ♠AQJ106 ♠Q652 ♠K85

The bidding has proceeded: West North East South

Pass Pass 1 ♠ ?

What action do you take?

A.—From the auction, you know partner has some strength and some length in spades. Rather than any unilateral action, double for take-out. By implication, this suggests you could not act initially because of a strong holding in opener's suit.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AK762 ♠J1062 ♠4 ♠Q98

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

A.—There are two schools of thought here. Some players always overcall one spade when they have a five-card suit. Others prefer a take-out double, because they don't want to lose a possible 4-4 heart fit. Our feet are in both camps, but since our spades are so much stronger than our hearts, we would vote for the overcall.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠109 ♠43 ♠AJ874 ♠AQ54

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—The one action that is excluded is a bid of three clubs! That would create a game force and you are nowhere near strong enough to insist on game. The choice lies between a preference to two spades or two no trump. With so much of our strength in the unbid suit, we prefer the latter.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AKJ108 ♠A872 ♠Void ♠A752

The bidding has proceeded: East South West North

1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠

Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—You are certainly going to game, but you should not overlook slam just because the opponents open the bidding. Bid three clubs to see what response that elicits from partner.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AKJ108 ♠A872 ♠Void ♠A752

The bidding has proceeded: East South West North

1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠

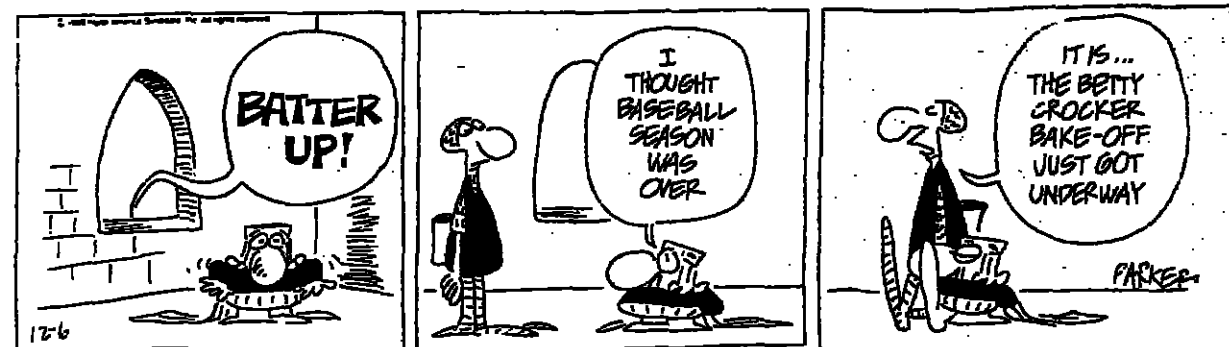
Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—You asked partner to evaluate his club holding for game, and he has told you he is well fortified in the suit. This is not the time for dainty steps. The enormous distributional assets in your two hands merits bold action. Bid six spades.

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Bram Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
- Whilst not everything is to your liking think of all the things that are. Do not do anything that would aggravate your partner. Avoid allowing economy to degenerate into meanness. Be sincere.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
- Do your best to ensure you do not get on other people's nerves. Do not expect everyone to do exactly what you would like them to do. Act your age, but do not think you are too old unless you really are. Be a little more patient.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
- There will be a lot of noise and this will distract you. Accordingly you should try to get away from the cause of the disturbance. Make sure you do not exaggerate it and other things. Be tactful.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
- There will not be time to do all you would like to do, so make sure you do what is most important first. Do not expect others to do things for you. And avoid relying on luck even if you might have some. Be moderate.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**
- You should make sure you do all you can to meet your commitments. And make equally sure you do not break a promise. Avoid allowing your emotions to get out of hand and let reason prevail. Be on your guard.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**
- Your mastery will not be as good as usual, so do not place too much reliance upon it. You are more likely to make mistakes, so be on the lookout for them. Have the courage of your convictions. Be reasonable.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**
- There will not be time for all you would like to do so make sure you get your priorities right. Do not do anything that is likely to upset your partner or possibly a friend. Try to ensure you do not lose your temper. Be more independent.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
- At long last you will get right something that has persistently been going wrong. And you will know how to avoid similar mistakes in future. You will find it hard to keep a promise but you must do so. Be considerate.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
- There will not be time to do everything so concentrate on doing something you have undertaken to do by a certain time. You should pay a little more attention to your personal hygiene and appearance. Live and let live. Be attentive.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19**
- You will not be able to have everything your own way. Instead you should make the most of what you have and what you can aspire to. You should not dwell too much on the past but concentrate on what is and on what is to come. Be tolerant.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
- You should not try to delay what you know should be done now. Lock doors but be sure not to leave your keys behind. Your lucky numbers are 24 and 36. A good opportunity will pass you by if you do not act promptly. Be responsive.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**
- You will be tempted to do something you know you should not. However, using a little more willpower will help you to resist. Avoid any sort of extravagance. Be courteous.

VARIETY

The plight of Japan oldies

TOKYO, (Reuters): One frosty morning this month a cold and hungry 80-year-old woman was rescued by welfare officials in the desolate yard of a Tokyo shrine. The woman had been banished by her family.

She was forced to leave her home because her family told her she was "old and ugly" and embarrassed them in front of guests. Earlier she had to live in a garden shed behind the family house.

Her plight is a vivid example of how busy and over-crowded Japan is having increasingly serious difficulties in dealing with a growing population of elderly people unwanted by their

families.

This is a sea change for Japan, which like other oriental societies has prided itself on respect for the old, who were cared for by their families and not shunted into homes.

Japanese were shocked by several cases this year of aged people, unable to cope any more, killing spouses who had become bed-ridden and then committing suicide.

Masako Ariga, the head of a Tokyo Home for the Aged that took care of the woman found at the shrine, described the woman's case as the most shocking she had ever seen.

"But more and more people



An old woman kills time by herself on a bench at Tokyo station (Reuters wirephoto).

are suffering from family problems," she said.

She said many of the 15,700 people who had sought help at the home over the past six years were treated as a nuisance or bullied by their own children and grandchildren, especially in cities, where life is busy and space is limited.

"They feel utterly miserable," Ariga said. "They often have already lost their friends and have no person to talk to either."

"No one in my family will talk to me," said an 80-year-old woman who lives in Tokyo with her son's family. "But I have to do all the cooking and washing as my daughter-in-law is sick and even though both of grandchildren are over 20."

Experts say tradition has caused Japan to neglect the problem, because people take it for granted that children will look after old or sick parents.

"Having the tradition, few old people try to be independent. They rely completely on their family," said Kazuyo Naito, an official at a Tokyo welfare centre. "It means an extra burden for the family who are expected to take care of them."

She said that, on the other hand, society had failed to

develop a welfare system to prevent the elderly from being abandoned.

"The wheelchair is a good example," Naito said. "We have many kinds, but more are designed to be pushed. You need somebody to move the chair."

The most difficult situation arises when an aged family member looked after by another elderly person becomes bed-ridden or grows senile.

Little state support has been given to those exhausted physically or psychologically from supervising an old person 24 hours a day.

In big cities, they have to wait years before they can find a place at a state old people's home or spend 10 million to 40 million yen (\$70,000 to \$280,000) to get a place at a private home.

Mental hospitals offer the only alternative for those who suffer senile dementia but are physically well. But most families are shocked by the barred windows of the hospitals and do not want to use them.

"Once in three months, Tokyo city takes care of your old family member for a day. But it is just not enough," said Naito, who lost her own mother after several difficult years.

A Health Ministry survey in August found the proportion of aged people in Japan who were completely bed-ridden was six times higher than in Denmark and three times higher than in Britain.

It said the rate could be lowered.

Faced with official forecasts that over one million aged people will be bed-bound by the year 2000, the government next year plans to launch a ten-year welfare plan for the aged, costing over six trillion yen (\$42 billion).

Under the plan, the number of nurses for the aged will more than triple to 100,000, beds at short-stay homes for the aged will more than double to 50,000 and day-care service centres rise to 10,000 from the current 1,080.

But Ariga was not too optimistic.

"Fewer and fewer people have experience of living with their grandparents. It will be difficult for them to understand and communicate with the older generation," she said.

"But maybe the situation could improve. People who now see what happened to their parents and grandparents prepare themselves better for their old age."

Singapore battles drug threat

A week of cold turkey

SINGAPORE, (Reuters): In a long, narrow cell, bare except for a row of wooden beds, men sit huddled on the cement floor, oblivious to their surroundings as they go through the agonies of heroin withdrawal.

The scene illustrates Singapore's no-nonsense approach to drug problems, one of the toughest in the world, which includes hanging for drug dealers and "cold turkey" detoxification for addicts.

The objective is that we want (addicts) to suffer," prisons director Tee Twa BA says. "Sometimes you have to be harsh in order to be kind and we believe that if he is made to go through (cold-turkey withdrawal), it will be a very traumatic experience."

To combat trends in drug use world-wide and ensure its own drug problem remains manageable, Singapore passed a law last month providing the death penalty for marijuana, cocaine and opium pushers. An earlier law mandated death for dealing in heroin and morphine.

"With opium likely to become a cheaper alternative for heroin addicts the increasing abuse for cannabis (marijuana) as a 'gateway drug' to heroin, and the expected arrival of cocaine trafficking, we must extend the death penalty beyond cases involving heroin and morphine," Home Affairs Minister Shanmugan Jayakumar told parliament.

The new law prescribes a mandatory death penalty for those caught with more than 30 grams (one ounce) of cocaine, 500 grams (1.1 pound) of marijuana or 1.2 kg (2.6 pounds) of opium.

It also allows prison officials to cane drug addicts in their charge for disciplinary offences and imposes a minimum two-year jail term for those convicted of a second drug-use offence.

Suspected drug users are obliged to undergo regular urine tests.

Critics have attacked the law as overly harsh.

"It (the government) seems to believe the death penalty is the solution. We feel the government should not concentrate so much on punishment," opposition member of parliament Lee Siew Choh said.

But the government maintains that only tough penalties can deter drug use.

Singapore's stand is in sharp contrast to recent debates in the United States and Europe about legalising use of some illicit drugs.

Only 10 of the 5,000 addicts rounded up each year in Singapore are prosecuted. Most are sent to drug rehabilitation centres for periods ranging from six weeks to three years.

After a week of cold-turkey treatment, the addicts, the vast majority of them heroin smokers, undergo hard physical training. After their release, they are monitored by regular and surprise urine checks for up to two years.

Those caught with more than 15 grams (half an ounce) of heroin face a mandatory death sentence.

Since the death penalty for trafficking in 15 grams of heroin was passed in 1975, 25 people have been hanged.

"I have no doubts, no doubts at all that if we did not have the death penalty, the level of trafficking in Singapore would be manifold above what it is today. It would have reached epidemic proportions," Jayakumar said.

The number of heroin users jumped from dozens in 1974 to more than 13,000 in 1976. Since then the number of addicts detected has declined, to about 500 in 1985, according to Singapore anti-narcotic association figures.

But last year the number increased again, to 1,200. Officials cited peer pressure and pressures of work or school as factors for the increase, as well as growing global drug use.

"You must put it in the world context, where the problem is increasing," an association official said.

Despite the trauma of cold-turkey withdrawal, compulsory urine tests and counselling, and a guaranteed job after release from a rehabilitation centre, 70 per cent of addicts turn out to be repeat offenders, official figures show.

"It makes you go mad. You're cold all over, even your bones are painful. You have to bang against the wall to make it better," said a former addict of quitting cold turkey, a process he has undergone several times.

"But when you're in the grip of (a drug craving), you don't think of these things," he said. "You can remember the suffering for one, two weeks. After that you forget."

Some government backbenchers in parliament have called for even tougher penalties to deter repeat offenders, including caning for hard-core addicts.

Jayakumar ruled out corporal punishment for repeat offenders for the time being. But he added: "We will continue to review the law periodically."

A murderer who kills in a crime of passion or in the cause of robbery and so on is unlikely to repeat it. But a drug trafficker has an insidious, pernicious effect on society, on the individual," he said, defending the extension of the death penalty.



American trafficker held

American lecturer Kerry Lane Wiley (left) shields his face from photographers while a fellow prisoner teases him on arrival at a Kuala Lumpur magistrate court Dec 28. Wiley is alleged to have trafficked in

477.6 grams (16.8 ounces) of cannabis, a charge which carries the mandatory death sentence on conviction. (Reuters wirephoto)

Psychology can help solve crimes

Techniques to induce information from witnesses

NEW YORK, (AP): Psychologists' research into how the memory works is being taken from the laboratory to the police station to help investigators dig up crime clues from the recesses of witnesses' minds.

One of the techniques, the "cognitive interview," has produced payoffs in a test at the Metro-Dade police department in Miami.

In one instance, a woman couldn't remember if the suspicious-looking man she saw near a murder scene wore any jewelry. But a few minutes later, as she concentrated on her recollection of him turning his head to the side, she remembered a gold earring.

That memory helped solve the case, says psychologist Ronald Fisher, who interviewed her at the request of police.

Results of the Miami test were reported in the October issue of the Journal of Applied Psychology by Fisher and Michael Amador of Florida International University and R. Edward Geiselman of the University of California, Los Angeles.

By analysing interviews with

robbery victims and witnesses, they found that seven detectives trained in the technique elicited 47 per cent more information than before training, and 63 per cent more than did nine untrained detectives.

The technique involves asking fewer questions than a standard interview, putting more burden on the witness to actively generate information rather than simply respond to queries, Fisher said.

Among its strategies is to discern the witness' job or hobby interests, which might indicate details he is more likely to recall. A clothing designer might be able to describe in detail what a suspect was wearing, for example.

The witness is also asked to recall his emotions and thoughts at the time of the crime, because studies suggest that help recollection. This can be tricky in the case of a victim who was frightened by the crime, Fisher said.

The interviewer also asks the witness what happened—not so much to get information as to determine the witness' vantage point in seeing the crime and the

"mental pictures" he has of it. The meat of the interview lies in asking the witness to recall the event, one mental picture at a time, and probing each picture for detail as it unfolds.

For example, if a suspect initially approached the witness and then walked away, the witness should be asked about the suspect's face only while recalling the approach. Questions about the back of the suspect's jacket should wait until the witness has moved on to recalling the departure.

The technique has "a lot of promise," said Gary Wells, chairman of the psychology department at Iowa State University and the author of a handbook of eyewitness identification for police.

But he and Elizabeth Loftus of the University of Washington have some reservations. For example, the interview combines several techniques, and it is not clear which produces the results. Finding that out might help researchers determine when to use the interview and when not to, Wells said.

Loftus also questioned

whether the extra details recalled during the cognitive interview are important. "Some of them are important, some of them are not," replied Fisher. "I go for all the information I can get."

Wells said more tests of the technique are needed.

Another line of memory research deals with the risk that a victim or witness will falsely identify an innocent person. Several hundred people a year may be falsely convicted of felonies in the United States through erroneous identification, said Ken Deffenbacher, a psychology professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Laboratory experiments have shown two strategies useful in reducing the risk of false identifications in police lineups, Wells said. Lineups include a person suspected by police and several people who generally resemble him.

In one strategy Wells studied, the witness is shown a lineup which, unknown to him, does not contain any suspects. If he fingers somebody, he is discarded as unreliable.

In the other strategy, the witness is shown one person at a time and asked if it is the right person. In the laboratory, this technique reduced false identifications by 20 per cent to nearly 40 per cent, Wells said.

But Lt Ron Lewis of the robbery-homicide division of the Los Angeles Police Department said he considered the "blank" lineup unnecessary because a regular lineup can already expose an erroneous witness if the witness fails to choose the suspect. He also said the district attorney generally will not file a complaint against a person identified by only one witness, corroborating evidence or multiple witness identifications are generally needed.

On another aspect of eyewitness reliability, studies show that people do more poorly in identifying people of a different race than of their own, said Florida State University psychologist John Brigham.

The reason for the problem is not clear. The observer's degree of racial prejudice doesn't seem to make a consistent difference.

Backstairs at the White House

WASHINGTON, (UPI): President Bush says he had a "great" Christmas at Camp David with his entire family, including 11 grandchildren who found the cold snowy weather perfect for sleigh riding at the Maryland mountaintop.

Bush said that he was on the phone a fair amount of time during the holiday, fielding calls on developments in Panama where Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega had asked for political asylum in the Vatican embassy and also monitoring the uprising in Romania.

Within an hour after repressive president Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena, also a power, during 24 years of brutal rule, were executed by a firing squad, Bush extended diplomatic recognition of the new government of Romania.

The dramatic changes in the final days of 1989 were predicted by no one and especially not by the astrologists and year end prognosticators who are resurrected every new year's day to forecast the political future of the world.

BOTH Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford visited Bucharest and met with Ceausescu during their presidential days.

It is well known that Ceausescu was Nixon's intermediary when the White House made secret contacts with Mao Tse Tung for Nixon's breakthrough trip to China in 1972.

Nixon had become acquainted with the Romanian marxist dictator during Nixon's eight year hiatus out of power—between 1961 when he ended his vice presidency and 1969 when he was elected president. At that time, the split between China and the Soviet Union was becoming

deeper and Nixon saw a way to exploit the schism—divide and conquer—and to gain an ally of 1 billion Chinese in the global politics of the superpowers.

WHILE there was no direct comment from President Bush, White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater was gracious when asked about the decision of Time magazine to name Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev the "Man of the Decade."

"We certainly do congratulate him. He certainly has contributed greatly to the surprising changes of the year. We congratulate him," Fitzwater said.

PRESIDENT and Mrs Bush, who like to encourage learning, will get a free education themselves on past presidencies. They have initiated, at Bush's behest, a series of lectures by historians and biographers on the former occupants of the White House.

The first of the series will be on Abraham Lincoln on Jan 7, in the state dining room, which is dominated by a magnificent pensive portrait of a brooding Lincoln above the mantle.

An aide indicated there would be no critique of the sitting president or the Bush administration. Much too early for historians to judge.

ROMANCE has blossomed in the White House press office with two Texans getting together. Melissa Compton of Dallas and James N. (Jay) Allison of Midland will be married in May.

The couple met on the Bush presidential campaign and recently became engaged. After their marriage, Compton will move to the office of Sig Rogich, the White

House director of public events.

THE president, who far exceeded his travel budget in 1989, plans to hit the road often in the coming months. But with an unprecedented cold spell freezing the east coast during the month of December, he is looking to Florida and Georgia for trips in January.

Bush may turn out to be the most expensive president in modern history if his penchant for travel continues. He made five trips out of the country in 1989 and there are reports that he will make several journeys overseas in the coming year. Bush will travel to violence-wracked Colombia in February to attend the drug summit. Australia and Africa are frequently mentioned as continents that Bush wants to visit in 1990.

But he also will travel within the United States this spring when he hosts the economic summit in May in Houston, Texas, his adopted home state. And he hosts the summit in the United States with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during the last two weeks in June.

That superpower summit is expected to be held in Washington, but there are indications that Bush also plans to invite Gorbachev to his seaside summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

IF he travels around the United States a bit after the superpower summit, Gorbachev would be expected to pay a call on former president Ronald Reagan at his Bel Air home in Los Angeles. It was Reagan's wish to show America to Gorbachev, including the wide open spaces in the West, but mostly to give him a picture of the farmlands, and capitalist prosperity.



Bush (left), Baker display two of the fish they caught after fishing Dec 27.

MARKETPLACE

هكذا من الأصل

SPORTS

SOCCER

Brazil will not change their style: Lazaroni

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 29. (Reuters) Brazil, bidding to win a record fourth World Cup, are promising not to compromise their traditional eye-catching samba style of soccer which has won them millions of admirers.

The assurance comes from Sebastiao Lazaroni, the man given the assignment of restoring the prestige of Brazilian soccer by bringing next year's world championship title back to this soccer-mad country.

"People have been asking me if Brazil will change their style to win in Italy," Lazaroni told Reuters.

"To those who seem concerned, I've repeated over and over that a coach can never change the style of playing of Brazilian soccer. We hope to win in Italy playing samba soccer, as the Europeans like to call our style," he said.

Lazaroni insists, however, that the use of the libero will be part of his playing tactics.

"We have proved that the use of the libero has not necessarily turned our team defensive. What's happened is that we have considerably improved our defence without losing our attacking power," Lazaroni said.

Since his decision to use the libero in the South American Cup in July, Brazil have only conceded three goals.

Convinced

"After being trounced 4-0 by Denmark in a friendly in May, I became convinced that something had to change in our game planning. The libero was our answer. So far it has been working with enormous efficiency," Lazaroni said.

His main concern now is to find a way to have his players together as soon as possible for the World Cup preparations in April.

"We will select our players on April 16. It's possible that we'll have some trouble having players released from the Portuguese clubs," Lazaroni said.

"I'd say that if we were to choose the team today, we'd probably call 13 who are playing in Europe, out of the 22."

Lazaroni refuses to pick his favourites for next year's finals, although he admits Brazil will be rated among the top four or five sides.

"I think our group is quite strong. Sweden beat us last May, Scotland play tough soccer and Costa Rica are unknown to the rest of the world."

Brazil are likely to arrive in Italy a month before their first match and are planning to play at least five friendlies before then, one of which is scheduled for March 28 against England at Wembley.

Lazaroni, a former amateur league goalkeeper and successful trainer and coach of Rio's Flamengo and Vasco da Gama, does not promise Brazil will win the World Cup for the first time since 1970.

"All I'm concerned about is to work hard and see that Brazil play good soccer in the World Cup. But to say we are going to win, it's another story. The World Cup is a short and very tricky tournament," he said.

Maradona faces fine

NAPLES, Italy, Dec. 29. (Reuters) Diego Maradona could be fined up to five million lire (\$3,800) by his Napoli club for skipping training and disappearing for 24 hours, club officials said today.

The Argentine World Cup and Napoli captain failed to turn up for yesterday's training ahead of weekend league soccer and the club said it had no idea where he was.

Maradona, who had no fitness problems during a training session on Wednesday, had not advised the club he would be absent and all attempts to contact him yesterday had failed.

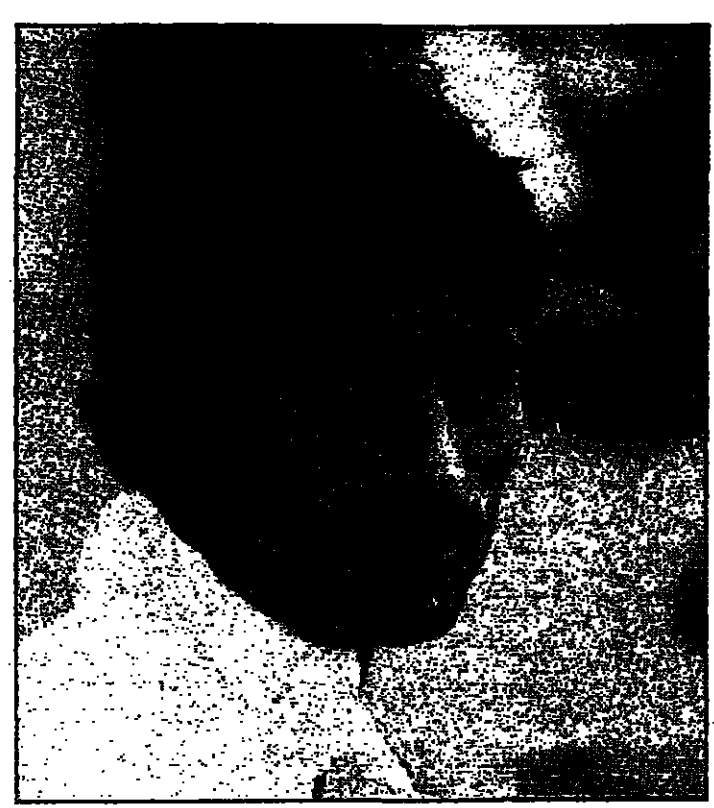
"Maradona did not come and that's all I have to say. Obviously we are trying to get in touch with the player and he will have to explain himself," general manager Luciano Moggi told journalists.

Napoli players who miss training without reason are regularly fined by the club up to five million lire (\$3,800).

Maradona skipped two training sessions because of family problems before Christmas but the club was at a loss to explain his absence yesterday.

League leaders Napoli meet in an away match tomorrow when the cage resumes after a Christmas break.

India miss penalty stroke Pakistan win Asia Cup



Shahbaz scored the first goal for Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Dec. 29. (Reuters) Pakistan completed a hat-trick of Asia Cup men's hockey victories yesterday, beating old foes India 2-0 in the final.

All three finals since the inception of the Cup, which is held every four years, have been between the traditional rivals Pakistan and India, eight times Olympic champions, had only themselves to blame for yet another failure.

First they gave away a sloppy goal, and then midway through the second half, at just the wrong psychological moment, they missed a penalty stroke.

After a brisk start by the Indians, Pakistan slowly got on top and controlled the rhythm, slowing the pace after a 28th minute goal from Shahbaz Ahmad, who pounced on a loose ball after some poor defending.

India had their chances, not least with the penalty stroke, but always seemed to send their final pass astray or hold on to the ball a second too long.

The match was strewn with fouls, but there was nothing nasty despite the tension of a final both wanted badly to win and fears of spectator violence after a Karachi crowd rioted last week during a one-day cricket international between the two.

The Pakistan gesture of throwing flowers to the packed 15,000 crowd before the start seemed to ease the fears, although police had to baton charge another 10,000 people outside and trying to get in.

There was some crowd trouble. Play was temporarily suspended for a couple of minutes in the first half as some in the crowd hurled stones. The hail of missiles soon stopped and was not repeated.

That came after Shahbaz's goal and there was no repetition when Arif Bhopali sealed the match with a goal in the 64th minute, capitalizing on another rebound.

McEnroe looks ahead

PERTH, Australia, Dec. 29. (Reuters) John McEnroe stared absent-mindedly into space and popped a grape into his mouth. For a moment, he looked totally at peace with the world. Then someone asked him a question.

"Your guess is not as good as mine," he rasped, peering around to see why everyone, including his American team-mate Pam Shriver, was laughing.

After a decade of outrageous McEnroe quotes, he looked rather pleased to have unearthed another original verbal winner.

Tennis in the 1980's and McEnroe have been inextricably linked. Some might say they have deserved each other. But as the 1990s approach, the three-time Wimbledon champion is arguably better qualified than most to predict the game's future.

Speaking in Perth during the final event of 1989, the Hopman Cup mixed team tournament, McEnroe was in characteristically peppy form.

"Guys are coming up much faster but I think you'll find they'll burn out much faster too," he said.

With the extra emphasis put on physical condition, people are going to find it difficult to last beyond 30 years old as they have in the past," he said.

McEnroe is the last true dinosaur of tennis. To be as good as he is at that stage is incredible.

"Young kids are coming up very quickly. Who would have thought that (Michael) Chang in a million years would have won the French Open? And look at (Steffi) Graf. Five years ago no-one had heard of her and now she's being called the greatest player of all time."

As for McEnroe himself, the lure of winning one more major title is still strong.

"Yeah, my appetite is itching it's way back. One of the reasons I'm in Australia early, apart from playing in something with Harry Hopman's name on it, is to give myself the best chance of winning the Australian Open."

"I'm still capable of beating any player in the world but I don't feel I've handled the pressure too well at the big tournaments in recent years."

"It's pretty hard to deal with defeat if your expectations are to win the tournament. Physically I'm in better shape and hopefully I can raise my game up a notch. These days I can easily live without being number one."

The McEnroe of 10 years ago would scarcely have been so philosophical but then times change. Accompanied to Australia by his family, the 30-year-old New Yorker is clearly approaching his new era with an altered perspective on life.

"If you look what's happening in the world right now, there's probably no pressure at all involved in playing tennis."

"Being a sportsman is the greatest job in the world. I can't think of anything I'd rather do."

Czechoslovakia beat France

PERTH, Australia, Dec. 29. (Reuters) Last-minute replacement Peter Korda helped holders Czechoslovakia into the semifinals of the Hopman Cup mixed team tennis tournament at the expense of France today.

Korda, called up late yesterday when Miloslav Mecir pulled out with torn ankle ligaments, combined with Helena Sukova in the mixed doubles to beat Yannick Noah and Isabelle Demongeot 6-4 5-7 7-5 and give Czechoslovakia an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the tie. Sukova had earlier beaten Demongeot in the women's singles.

Third-seeded Czechoslovakia will now meet the winners of the match between Spain and Australia in the semifinals tomorrow.

Korda, ranked 63 in the world, looked immediately at home despite his late call-up and the presence of the injured Mecir in the stands.

Quick to intervene at the net, he combined well with Sukova to combat the threat of the flamboyant Noah who was unable to repeat his earlier heroics.

Yesterday, Noah earned France a thrilling 2-1 win over the Netherlands by beating Michel Schaperyn in a third set tie-break in the deciding men's singles.

The French pair took the second set but Korda and Sukova kept their nerve and deservedly took the decisive third.

Sukova had given Czechoslovakia early encouragement by ending the brave resistance of Demongeot in the singles.

The French girl, who saved three match points before beating Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands yesterday, saved another four before Sukova finally clinched a 6-4 3-6 7-5 victory.

Demongeot, ranked 39 in the world, led 4-1 in the first set but then lost six games in succession before recovering her composure.

In the end, though, Sukova's extra strength and reach proved just too much for the plucky French girl to overcome.

Pittsburgh ready to take on Houston

TEN years ago, the annual message for the Houston Oilers was that the road to the Super Bowl ran through Pittsburgh. Now, the Steelers, who've been at the dead end of that path for four years, are happy to have it detour through Houston.

Pittsburgh, returning to post-season action for the first time since 1984, plays the Oilers in the AFC wild card game after the Los Angeles Rams play the Eagles in the NFC wild card showdown as the NFL playoffs get under way tomorrow.

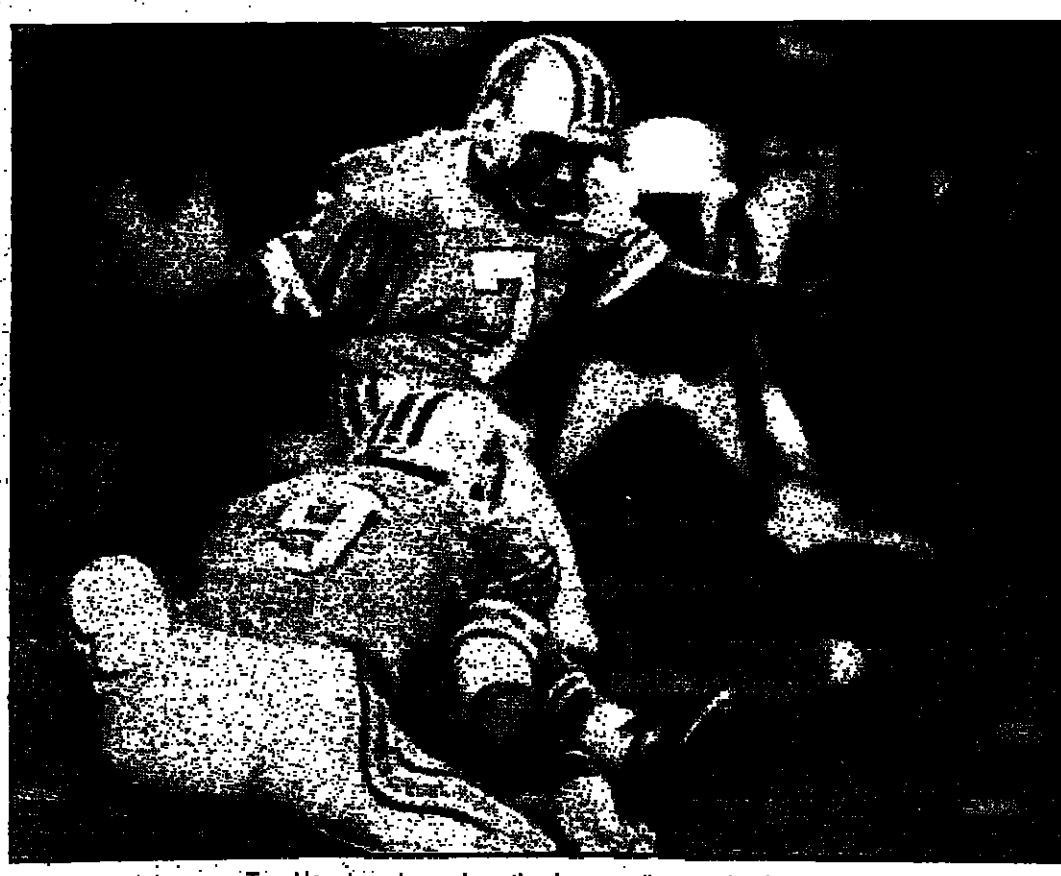
For the Oilers, it is a chance to get even. Twice in the Bum Phillips regime, Houston, armed with the Super Bowl map, marched into Pittsburgh for AFC championship games and lost both times, 34-51 in 1978 and 27-13 the next year. Now it is the Oilers' turn to sit at home and have the Steelers come to them.

This is no great burden for a Pittsburgh team delighted to be involved in the playoffs anywhere after four straight years on the sidelines. The Steelers' participation, however, came as no surprise to their quarterback, Bobby Brister.

During last spring's mini-camp, Brister considered the debris of a 5-11 season, the Steelers' worst record in 20 years, and made a bold prediction, predicting it on a lockerroom blackboard.

"Playoffs '89."

Inspired by their quarterback's faith, Pittsburgh went out



Two Houston Oilers players in action in an earlier match this year.

and lost its first two games by a combined score of 92-10.

After 10 weeks, the Steelers were 4-6 and seemed on the road to nowhere. But they won five of their last six, got a little help in the final game of the season when Minnesota knocked off Cincinnati, and wound up in the playoffs.

Brister knew it all the time. He also knows what people think about his team.

"We're not getting much respect now and people are probably saying, 'aw, they shouldn't be in the playoffs,'" he said. "Next week, after we go on to next (game), we'll earn our own respect. We can't talk about it. We have to get it done on the field."

Pakistan suffer innings defeat

PERTH, Australia, Dec. 29. (Reuters) Captain Imran Khan said Australia and Sri Lanka should not get too excited over Pakistan's innings defeat by Western Australia in a three-day cricket tour match today.

Pakistan, all out for 75 in their first innings, were dismissed for 245 after just 32 minutes this morning as they chased the state side's 398 for nine declared.

Western Australian left-arm pace bowler Peter Capes took six for 92 in the Pakistan second innings as only Saifullah Yousuf offered any worthwhile resistance, scoring 78.

"A loss is never good for a team's confidence and our batting didn't stand up to the strong Test we gave it," Imran admitted. "But you must remember that four of our best batsmen didn't play and that leaves a side bare at any time."

"I must concede our batting is a bit of a worry without Javed, Salim Malik and Rameez Raja," said all-rounder Imran who did not play. "We can compensate if our bowlers are injured but we do rely on our best batsmen too much."

It was the worst performance by a team at the Waca ground since Western Australia dismissed a Queensland Sheffield Shield team for 52 in the 1982-83 season.

Matthews attributed his success to pitching the ball up to the Pakistan batsmen. "It's a practice that Dennis Lillee and Graham McKenzie taught me," he said. "There is no point bowling short on this ground because you will get hit."

When Pakistan batted again they lost opener Aamer Malik without scoring but Shoaib Mohammad (40) and Mansoor Akhtar (20) steadied the ship.

Scoreboard

WESTERN AUSTRALIA first innings 398 for nine declared. (T. Moody 83, W. Andrews 80)

Pakistan first innings

Aamer c Zoehrer b Matthews..... 19

Shoaib b Matthews..... 30

Mansoor lbw b Matthews..... 0

Anwar c Wood b Russell..... 0

Ijaz lbw b Matthews..... 3

Yousuf c Veletta b Russell..... 18

Oadri c McCleary b Matthews..... 0

Aaqib c Zoehrer b Russell..... 0

Ghouri b Capes..... 1

Waqar not out..... 1

Maqsood b Matthews..... 0

Extras (b-1 lb-1 w-1)..... 3

Total..... 75

Fall of wickets 1-41 2-45 3-46 4-51 5-58 6-68 7-68 8-70 9-74

Bowling: Capes 5-2-17-0, McCleary 6-0-24-0, Matthews 8-3-22-7 (w), S Russell 17-4-10-3

PAKISTAN second innings (overnight 221 for six wickets)

Aamer c Veletta b Capes..... 0

Shoaib c sub b Hogan..... 40

Mansoor c Wood b Capes..... 20

Anwar c Brayshaw b Capes..... 11

Ejaz lbw b Matthews..... 27

Yousuf c Russell b Capes..... 78

Oadri c Zoehrer b McCleary..... 51

Maqsood b Capes..... 7

Waqar c Zoehrer b McCleary..... 3

Ghouri not out..... 0

Aaqib b Capes..... 0

Extras (lb-6 nb-2)..... 8

Total..... 245

Fall: 1-0-2-53 3-77 4-79 5-142 6-216 7-234 8-241 9-245

Bowling: Capes 18-3-92-6 (2nb), McCleary 12-7-18-2, Matthews 12-4-11-37-1, Russell 11-2-29-0, Hogan 12-2-54-1, Moody 3-1-7-0, Brayshaw 0-2-0-2-0

Result — Western Australia won by an innings and 78 runs



Imran: tells other teams not to get excited over Pakistan's defeat.

seasons, walked from the field 15 minutes before the close clutching his right hamstring.

From 41 for no wicket in the first innings Pakistan fell apart.

Matthews was brought into the bowling just before midday and within 77 minutes Pakistan were all out.

It was the worst performance by a team at the Waca ground since Western Australia dismissed a Queensland Sheffield Shield team for 52 in the 1982-83 season.

Matthews attributed his success to pitching the ball up to the Pakistan batsmen. "It's a practice that Dennis Lillee and Graham McKenzie taught me," he said. "There is no point bowling short on this ground because you will get hit."

When Pakistan batted again they lost opener Aamer Malik without scoring but Shoaib Mohammad (40) and Mansoor Akhtar (20) steadied the ship.

Border calls for neutral umpires

PERTH, Australia, Dec. 29. (AP) Australian cricket captain Allan Border called today for neutral umpires in all international matches.

Speaking on the eve of Australia's World Series Cup one-day match against Sri Lanka, Border said an independent panel of umpires would stop criticism that had been aimed at officials in recent years.

Crickets Tests around the world currently are umpired by officials from the host nation.

Stop

"It seems that everyone blames umpires if they lose a match nowadays," Border said.

"If neutral umpires are introduced there will be no more dramas and it would stop the undercurrent (of criticism) that umpires make home town decisions."

"Most other sports use the independent system and cricket should probably go the same way."

The Australian team has in the past experienced difficulties with umpires when on tour, particularly in Pakistan.

Former England captain Mike Gatting accused Pakistan umpire Shakoor Rana of cheating when the England team toured Pakistan two years ago.

Border said the use of neutral umpires had proved a success in experimental matches.

"There may be arguments for and against the move but it will be the way for cricket to go — and I'm sure it will come soon," Border said.

Border said English umpires could dominate an international panel of neutral officials.

"The English think they have the best umpires and they are correct," he said.

"Most of them played high-level cricket and still have the feel for the game, which is important."

Golf course boasts of killer holes

ROCKHAMPTON, Australia, Dec. 29. (AP) The final two holes at the Rockhampton golf club can be real killers — a large crocodile lurks in a lagoon skirting the course.

Colin Gill, secretary-manager of the club, warns visitors to "play a really careful game."

The 8-foot crocodile has been nicknamed Cornelius.

"When people see signs warning them of crocodiles on the 17th and 18th holes, they sometimes think it is a joke," said Gill.

"They don't know whether to keep playing, head for the safety of the clubhouse or swap their clubs for a camera."

Gill frequently hands visitors to the north Queensland club a fake aerosol can containing "Crocodile repellent."

"If your ball goes in the lagoon you are in a no-win situation," he said. "Leave the ball in the lagoon and you lose two shots, but try to play the ball out of the water and you could end up with a bite or two."



Nasser (right) receives the winner's trophy

Majid finishes first

Majid, owned by Nasser Al Badeen, galloped to victory in a 12-horse meet held on Tuesday at the Jabra Equestrian Club to clinch the Dunhill Trophy.

The horse races were held at the Sabah Al Nasser racing track located on the Al Atraf road and attended by Mohamed Haif Al Hajraf, the chairman of the Jabra Equestrian Club and all the board members as well as a large number of spectators.

There were four races on that day out of which the fourth race was sponsored by Dunhill, 11 horses took part in the race and results were as follows:

Winner: Majid, owned by Nasser Al Badeen

Second: Goslina, owned by Jasim Safaa

Third: Quyoot Al Fajr, owned by Mirshid Atallah

After the race, Miss Dunhill, Jane Thomas, presented the trophy and Dunhill prizes to the owners of the winning horses. The winner & runner-up jockeys, too, were presented special prizes from Dunhill.

Dunhill continues to sponsor Equestrian events, horse races and showing — jumping, both locally as well as worldwide. Equestrian events will also be sponsored by Dunhill at the Hunting & Equestrian Club as well as other local clubs during this season. The next Dunhill sponsored event is a horse race which is scheduled to take place at the Hunting & Equestrian Club's racing track on Monday, January 22, 1990.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Players honoured

LONDON, Dec 29, (AP): Two-time Olympic 1,500-metre champion Sebastian Coe, victorious Ryder Cup captain Tony Jacklin, England soccer captain Bryan Robson and heavyweight boxer Frank Bruno were among sportsmen named today in the New Year's honours list issued by Queen Elizabeth II. Coe becomes an officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to sport. Jacklin, made an OBE in 1970, was awarded the higher honour of companion of the Order of the British Empire. Robson was awarded the OBE while Bruno, unsuccessfully challenged Mike Tyson for the world title earlier this year, was made a member of the Order of the British Empire.

Liberty Bowl

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Dec 29, (AP): Randy Baldwin rushed for 177 yards and two touchdowns and John Darnell gave Air Force a lesson in aerial assault last night as Mississippi dumped the Falcons 42-29 in the Liberty Bowl.

NBA games

NEW YORK, Dec 29, (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

Charlotte	94	Cleveland	92
New York	106	New Jersey	104
Denver	132	Miami	107
Utah	111	Portland	109
L.A. Clippers	139	Golden S.	119

Top rookie

NEW YORK, Dec 29, (AP): Barry Sanders, going from record-setting collegian to sensational NFL rookie, has been named the Offensive Rookie of the Year by the Associated Press, it was announced yesterday.

Perry sentenced

AURORA, Colorado, Dec 29, (AP): Denver Broncos tackle Gerald Perry was sentenced Wednesday to 15 days in jail, beginning after the NFL playoffs, for soliciting a prostitute.

Romanian club

BEUGRADE, Dec 29, (Reuters): Dinamo Bucharest, the Romanian club linked to the notorious Securitate, are expected to be disbanded and so lose their European Cup Winners' Cup place.

Request rejected

MALMO, Sweden, Dec 29, (Reuters): Sweden has rejected a request for political asylum by Chinese badminton star Sun Xiaoping, one of the world's top six female players, police said today.

Dutch star

MILAN, Italy, Dec 29, (AP): Dutch soccer star Ruud Gullit has begun light exercises following a third surgical operation on his long-injured right knee, but AC Milan doctors said today a complete recovery looks distant.

Polgar sisters

LUCERNE, Switzerland, Dec 29, (AP): Fifteen-year-old Sofia Polgar has joined her sisters Judith, 13, and Susana, 20, among the world's ten best women chess players, according to the year-end results of the International Chess Federation Fide, published today.

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United suffer another injury blow

Clough reaches 1,000th mark

LONDON, Dec 29, (Reuters): Brian Clough looks set to celebrate an English League milestone as a manager tomorrow in the same controversial style that has marked his long and successful soccer career.

When his Nottingham Forest side play at Tottenham Clough will be managing a club for his 1,000th League match.

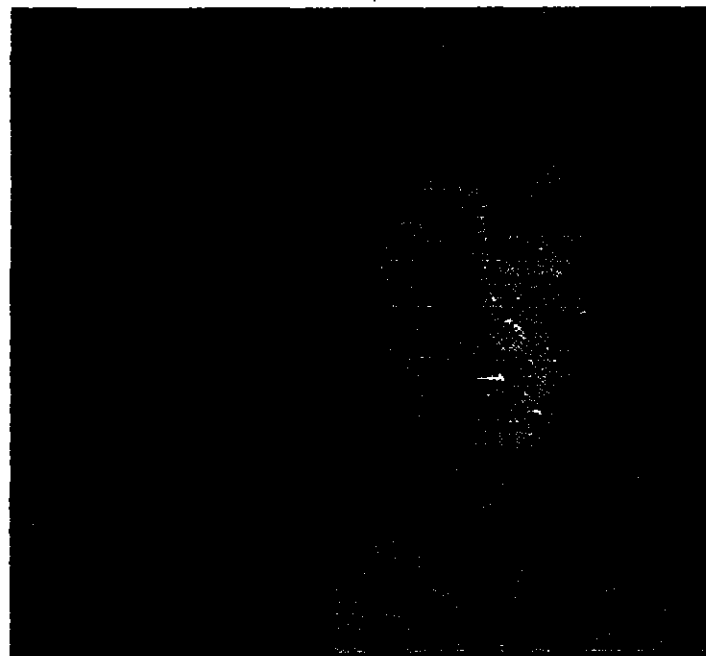
But there is also speculation that Clough could end the decade in the bad books of the Football Association (FA) on a charge of contravening its code of conduct.

The manager, probably overlooked by England because of his reputation for being outspoken, recently criticised Manchester United's directors in public.

He began the year with a fine of £5,000 (\$8,150) and a touchline ban in February after a scuffle with fans who invaded the pitch at Nottingham Forest.

Clough has already managed one club far longer than anyone else currently working in the English League and is the only manager to have stayed at one club for the past 10 years.

He has been in charge of five clubs during his 25 years as a manager, winning League championships with Derby County and Nottingham Forest and two



Dalglish: has advantage of inheriting an excellent side

European Cups with Forest in 1979 and 1980.

Clough's League record since he took charge at Hartlepool in 1965 after his playing career was cut short by injury bears comparison with any recent manager after winning 456 of his 999

League games, drawing 260 and losing 283.

Leaders Liverpool, who face bottom club Charlton at home tomorrow, should still be top on New Year's day when manager Kenny Dalglish and Clough come face to face at Forest.

Dalglish has had the advantage of inheriting the best side in England in the past decade, finding success with only one club and being in management for a much shorter time than Clough.

He has steered Liverpool to 108 victories in 182 League games and they have lost only 29. Since he took over at Anfield in 1985, Liverpool have won two League titles and two FA Cups.

The strongest challenge to the leaders of late has come from third place Aston Villa who have a chance to consolidate on their recent success when they receive Arsenal tomorrow. An eighth consecutive home victory would see them leap over the champions into second place.

Villa, promoted two seasons ago, very nearly went back into the Second Division last season. But manager Graham Taylor has welded a powerful young side that recovered from a poor start this term.

Veteran midfielder Gordon Cowans said the improvement was based on a solid defence. "We are giving very little away at the back and that is probably the key to our recent success."

Aston Villa recorded their biggest crowd since their championship winning 1980-81 season when they beat Manchester

United 3-0 at Villa Park on Tuesday and can expect more than 40,000 fans again tomorrow.

Meanwhile Manchester United, already expected to be without captain Bryan Robson for tomorrow's visit to Wimbledon, suffered another injury blow today when winger Danny Wallace was ruled out for three matches.

Wallace has hamstring trouble and his loss is a further setback for manager Alex Ferguson who is facing the most crucial spell of his Old Trafford reign.

United are languishing near the relegation zone of the First Division, just three points ahead of neighbours Manchester City who are second from bottom.

Wimbledon, a point ahead of United, beat bottom club Charlton 3-1 at home in Tuesday's holiday programme.

Wallace, who will also miss the New Year's day visit of Queens Park Rangers and next week's Football Association (FA) Cup tie at Nottingham Forest, was just beginning to find his form when he limped out of last Saturday's 0-0 draw at Liverpool.

United and England captain Robson is doubtful for the Wimbledon game because of a groin strain but is likely to recover in time for Monday's match.



Greg Lemond (left)

Lemond, Schneider named best of 1989

MILAN, Italy, Dec 29, (AP): American cyclist Greg Lemond and Swiss skier Vreni Schneider were named the best athletes of 1989 in a survey by Italy's largest sports daily, Gazzetta dello Sport of Milan.

Lemond, 28, who captured the Tour de France and the world road title this year, edged West German tennis star Boris Becker and Cuban high jumper Javier Sotomayor among the men in Gazzetta's poll of sportswriters.

The results were published today in the daily, which has a circulation of about 1 million.

American track and field star Carl Lewis, who had been picked as the best athlete of the 1980s in a recent survey by the same sports daily, did not finish among the top 15 in the yearly contest.

Lemond received 493 points, compared with Becker's 478 and Sotomayor's 425.

Schneider, 25, who won the World Cup Alpine Skiing title last season, scoring a record of 14 wins, finished ahead of West German tennis wonder Steffi Graf and French cyclist Jeanie Longo.

Schneider had 527 points and Graf 412. Graf had finished second to Czechoslovak-born tennis star Martina Navratilova in the previous survey on the Best Athletes of the Decade.

AC Milan, the European soccer champion, led the standings of the best teams of the year with 236 points.

The Cuban men's and women's volleyball teams shared second place with 230 points.

The US track and field team and the US National Basketball Association's Detroit Pistons finished fifth and sixth respectively in the teams standings.

US hurdles specialist Edwin Moses edged fellow-American track star Carl Lewis as Best Athlete of the Decade in another survey by Rome's sports daily Corriere dello Sport.

Sportswriters of the Roman daily gave Moses 28 points, compared with Lewis' 26. Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona finished third with 7.

Drumbeat claims line honours

SYDNEY, Dec 29, (Reuters): Alan Bond, Australia's hero when he claimed the America's Cup in 1983, helmed his super maxi Drumbeat across the line in Hobart to claim line honours in the Sydney-Hobart yacht race today.

Bond, whose flagship company Bond Corporation faces possible financial collapse, appeared not to have a care in the world as he waved at cheering crowds who had been waiting for several hours for Drumbeat's arrival.

The state-of-the-art yacht, launched in April at a cost of \$2.4 million, took three days six hours 21 minutes 34 seconds to complete the 630 nautical miles from Sydney harbour.

Ragamuffin, line honours winner in 1988 in three days 15 hours, is in second place about two hours behind Drumbeat with Pocket Maxi Hammer of Queensland expected to finish third.

Drumbeat was becalmed for much of the day, sailing just 23 nautical miles in five hours before a light breeze finally took him across the line on the Derwent River.

Bond and his 26-man crew, many of whom took part in the 1983 and 1986/7 America's Cup campaigns, had led for much of the Southern Hemisphere's most prestigious ocean race, only slackening the pace in gale-force winds in the Bass Strait.

Bond and skipper Peter Gilmour were apparently concerned the 25-metre lightweight sloop would suffer the same fate as Windward Passage II, a boat of similar design, which was forced to retire early in the 1988 race after overreaching itself.

While racing in Sardinia earlier in the year the pale grey Drumbeat had to pull out because of gear failure. Gilmour helmed Kookaburra II in the 1986/87 America's Cup.

One of Australia's largest banks, the National Australia, announced shortly before Drumbeat crossed the line it had appointed a receiver for Bond's brewing assets.

Drumbeat is jointly owned by Alan Bond and his private company Dalhold Holdings.

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Pakistan protest

NEW DELHI, Dec 29, (Reuters): Pakistan protested to India today over crowd violence at a hockey match between the two in New Delhi.

Play was suspended briefly at yesterday's Asia Cup men's final when some in the crowd of 15,000 threw stones at Pakistani players.

A group of spectators attacked the Pakistani players' bus after the match, breaking windows and slightly injuring the team's manager, the Pakistani High Commission Press Minister Mubarak Shah, told Reuters.

Romanians pay high price

BUCHAREST, Dec 29, (Reuters): Romania's crack pistol shooters using human targets were among sportsmen in the forefront of the revolution that toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

But the cost was high. Many were killed or wounded.

Members of the Steaua Bucharest military sports club helped defend the adjacent Defence Ministry against assaults by Securitate secret police and elite troops loyal to Ceausescu.

Unconfirmed reports say the ministry complex was where Ceausescu and his wife Elena were imprisoned, tried by a military tribunal and executed last Monday, Christmas Day.

Sorin Babii, an army officer and Romania's 1988 Olympic pistol shooting gold medalist, was a key defender against snipers seeking targets among military leaders backing the National Salvation Front against Ceausescu.

"This was not the kind of practice I wanted. I always preferred paper targets, not live ones," Babii told Reuters.

Together with Corneliu Ion, the 1980 Olympic rapid fire shooting gold medalist, Babii scanned the surrounding high-rise building through telescopic lenses looking for snipers lurking on roofs or in windows.

"I can't say for sure if I hit anybody," Ion said.

"There is a big difference shooting in a 50-metre firing range when the only stress is to score points, and at 300 metres when you are fighting for your life."

Several times secret police launched fierce attacks on the sports club to gain a vantage point for an assault on the Defence Ministry, focus of the armed forces command.

There were many casualties among club members and other rank-and-file defenders.

The dead include Romania's national rugby team captain Florica Murariu and international Radu Dubac.

Murariu led Romania to a 15-9 victory over Wales in Cardiff in December 1988, the first ever international win for the Romanians in Britain.

Steaua's famous football team was not in Romania when the revolution erupted but returned from Cyprus yesterday with medical supplies and other relief materials.

Other sportsmen took part in the revolution, contributing their skills according to the need.

Teddy Nicoliescu, 69, a former champion and trainer of the Dynamo Bucharest boxing team, which is also part of the Interior Ministry, collected his entire squad to guard the entrance to an emergency hospital which was a major Securitate target.

Tyson lawsuit complicated

MORRISTOWN, New Jersey, Dec 29, (AP): A suit involving property purchased in the New Jersey city of Bernardsville by heavyweight champ Mike Tyson is escalating into a maze of claims and counterclaims, an attorney said yesterday.

The legal controversy began in November 1988 when real estate broker Vincent J. Raza Jr. sued Tyson and his former wife, actress Robin Givens, claiming they failed to pay him a \$95,000 commission for arranging the \$1.9 million purchase of two lots adjacent to the Tyson residence.

In August 1988, Tyson paid \$950,000 for each of the lots, according to Raza's attorney, Michael J. Mella.

Tyson in turn filed a cross claim against Givens, her mother, the Bernardsville developer who sold Tyson the property, and others claiming they conspired to inflate the price of the property.

This week, the seller, Bernard Mountain Heights Ltd partnership, filed papers asking that if Raza is not paid the \$95,000 the partnership should be paid since it was deducted from the price.

"If he doesn't owe it to Mr. Raza, he owes it to my client," said partnership attorney William Messineo.

"Our position is that we don't owe anyone any money," said Tyson's attorney, John Trombadore of Somerville.

"These individuals collectively and individually were involved in conduct that made it clear they were not entitled to receive any commission."

Johnson may lose records

LONDON, Dec 29, (AP): Ben Johnson will start the 1990s recognised as the world's fastest man, but he may formally be stripped of his records a few weeks later.

Mike Gee, technical director for the International Amateur Athletic Federation, said it will be Jan 19 at the earliest before the IAAF meets to decide whether to wipe Johnson's name from the record books.

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Becker faces \$5,000 fine

ADELAIDE, Australia, Dec 29, (AP): Wimbledon and US Open tennis champion Boris Becker of West Germany faces a \$5,000 fine after withdrawing today from next week's Australian Hardcourt Tennis Championships at Memorial Drive in Adelaide.

Becker gave no reason for his late withdrawal from the \$150,000 tournament, the opening event of the new Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour.

The World No.2, who earlier this month led West Germany to victory over Sweden in the Davis Cup final, withdrew from the event less than 72 hours before the scheduled start.

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